

Protection of Child Victims of Violence in Daycare: A Case Study in Palembang

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ABSTRACT

Violence against children in daycare centers has become a serious concern because children are a vulnerable group that requires special protection. This study aims to analyze the legal protection provided to child victims of violence in daycare centers, examine the role of daycare as a child care institution, and explore cases of child abuse occurring in Palembang City. This research employs a normative legal research method using a library research approach. The data used are secondary data obtained from the examination of legislation, books, scientific journals, and other relevant literature. Data were collected through documentation studies and analyzed using a descriptive qualitative method. The findings indicate that child protection is a shared responsibility of families, communities, daycare providers, and the government. Although daycare centers serve as institutions that support children's growth and development, cases of violence still occur due to weak supervision, inadequate caregiver competence, and the ineffective implementation of child protection systems. In Palembang City, incidents of violence against children in childcare institutions highlight the urgent need to strengthen monitoring mechanisms, improve caregiver quality, and enforce legal protections more effectively. These measures are essential to ensure the fulfillment of children's rights and to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future.

Keywords: child protection; child violence; daycare Palembang

INTRODUCTION

Children constitute a highly vulnerable group and require special protection because they are incapable of protecting themselves from various threats, including violence. With many parents working, daycares have become a preferred option to fulfill child-rearing needs when parents are occupied. However, in recent years, numerous cases of violence have occurred within child care facilities, causing public concern regarding the safety and quality of child care services. When caregivers commit violence against children, the children can experience severe physical and psychological impacts that will affect their growth and development. Therefore, the state and all relevant stakeholders must pay meticulous attention to the legal protection of child victims of violence (Nugraha et al., 2024).

The existence of a daycare should ideally offer a safe and comfortable environment for children when parents are unable to accompany them. However, several uncovered cases of violence demonstrate that this protective function has not yet operated optimally. This condition has drawn serious concern because children enrolled in daycares are in a position of extreme dependency on their caregivers, leaving them susceptible to improper treatment. When violence occurs in a place that is supposedly meant to provide protection, public trust in child care institutions can diminish significantly.

Weak supervisory systems and a lack of control over caregivers serve as the primary factors driving the occurrence of violence. Children are exceptionally vulnerable because they heavily depend on their caregivers and face limitations in articulating the experiences of abuse

they endure. Consequently, an effective protection system is required to guarantee child safety while at daycares. A robust supervisory system and strict controls over caregivers are paramount to prevent violence from occurring. Thus, children can feel safe and comfortable while staying at daycares (Ramadhan & Yusuf, 2026).

Violence in daycares does not merely pertain to how caregivers act, but also concerns how the institutions are supervised and how child care service standards are implemented. Daycare management bears the responsibility to ensure that all caregivers possess adequate competence, ethics, and a sound understanding of children's rights. The government must also enhance the supervision and evaluation of daycares to ensure that similar incidents do not recur continuously. By doing so, we can ensure that children receive safe and proper upbringing.

Child abuse in care centers or daycares occurring across various regions in Indonesia indicates that this is a major problem requiring serious attention from all of us. Looking into the case of Daycare Little Aresha Yogyakarta, it is evident that violence against children is frequently triggered by a lack of rigorous supervision, absent controls over caregivers, and child protection systems that fail to function properly within the daycare environment. The Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) has also raised serious concerns regarding the continuous occurrence of violence in daycares and urged a comprehensive evaluation of child care mechanisms in Indonesia (Lubis et al., 2026).

In Palembang City, the issue of child protection in daycares is becoming increasingly critical due to the rising number of parents requiring child care services. Several news reports and public discussions within the Palembang community indicate that parents are worried about daycare safety following child abuse cases in child care centers across Indonesia. Therefore, it is imperative to conduct research titled "Protection for Child Victims of Violence in Daycares: A Case Study in Palembang" to understand how the law protects child victims, the legal liabilities of daycare institutions, and what measures can be taken to prevent similar cases from recurring. This study is expected to help construct a stronger child protection system and improve the quality of child care services in Palembang City.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a normative legal research method by reviewing various existing books and literature in the library. Normative legal research is a study that examines various legal rules enshrined in statutory legislation, legal doctrines, and various other sources related to the research object (Widiarty, 2024). This method was selected because this study aims to comprehend how the law protects children who fall victim to violence in daycares and how daycare managements are held accountable under the applicable laws in Indonesia. In conducting this research, the approaches utilized include examining relevant statutes and understanding the concept of child protection to analyze how this concept is implemented in daycare abuse cases.

This study utilizes secondary data obtained through a documentary study of primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials related to the protection of child victims of violence. Data collection was carried out through library research, which involves identifying, gathering, and reviewing various statutory regulations, books, scholarly journals, research results, and other relevant references. Once the data was compiled, it was analyzed using a qualitative descriptive method, namely by describing and interpreting the applicable legal provisions and linking them with prior research findings regarding daycare abuse cases. This analysis aims to acquire an understanding of the forms of legal protection for child victims of violence, the liability of daycare institutions, and preventive measures to ensure similar cases do not recur in the future.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Child Protection Against Child Abuse

Child protection encompasses all efforts to safeguard children so they can live, grow, and develop properly. Children hold the right to feel safe and protected from various hazards that can disrupt their physical, mental, and social development. Because children represent a vulnerable group, they require protection from all forms of violence, discrimination, and exploitation. Child protection constitutes a shared responsibility among families, communities, and the state. We must all collaborate to foster a safe and comfortable environment for children to grow and develop. Thus, children can grow into healthy and robust individuals, enabling them to participate optimally in society. Child protection is the key to ensuring that children's rights are fulfilled and that they can enjoy a bright future.

Violence against children is deeply concerning. It can manifest as actions that cause children to suffer physically, mentally, sexually, or through neglect. All of these strictly jeopardize child welfare and children's rights. Pursuant to Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection, violence against children refers to any act resulting in a child suffering physical, mental, or sexual harm, or neglect. This definition also encompasses threats, coercion, and actions that unlawfully deprive a child of their liberty. Child abuse can transpire anywhere, including at home, in schools, within communities, or even in child care facilities like daycares. This demonstrates that children require special protection because they lack the capacity to shield themselves from threats that can impede their growth and development (Prastini, 2024).

Efforts to protect children are also implemented through specific policies and programs. The objective is clear: to prevent violence and assist victims. One method involves establishing child protection agencies. These institutions provide complaint channels and legal assistance. Children who fall victim to violence are also provided with psychological rehabilitation. Child protection can also be executed by engaging the public, for instance, through the Community-Based Integrated Child Protection Program (PATBM). This program socializes violence prevention methods and provides the community with straightforward access to report abuse cases. Through these methods, we aim to increase public awareness and ensure that the handling of child abuse cases becomes swifter and more effective. Child protection is our collective responsibility; we must play an active role in preventing violence and aiding victims (Indriani et al., 2025).

To optimize child protection, the government has established several specialized agencies to safeguard children, such as the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI). Through these institutions, the state demonstrates its serious commitment to supervising and assisting children so that their rights are fully realized. Furthermore, participation from the public, social organizations, schools, and corporate entities is paramount to establishing a sound child protection system. If the government and the community collaborate, children can be protected from violence more effectively, enabling them to grow and develop well in a safe and comfortable environment (Hidayati, 2014).

Daycare as a Child Care Institution

A daycare, commonly referred to as a Child Care Center (*Taman Penitipan Anak / TPA*), is an alternative for working parents to ensure their children receive proper care and education. This facility greatly assists parents who cannot supervise their children directly due to work demands. Many modern families opt for daycares because they offer structured and continuous services. A daycare functions not merely as a temporary dropping spot, but also as an institution that supports child growth and development through various educational, social, and character-building activities tailored to the child's age (Hamer et al., 2020).

Daycares exist to support parents preoccupied with work. While parents are working, children still require proper care and education. They need adequate food, clothing, shelter, and sufficient attention. In addition, children require stimulation to grow and develop soundly. Daycares play a crucial role in this regard by helping ensure that children receive quality care and proper education. Consequently, children can grow and develop in a balanced manner across physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and moral dimensions, ultimately shaping them into well-rounded individuals prepared to face the future (Fitri et al., 2016).

In pondering child welfare, nurturing is the most critical element. Both families and child care facilities like daycares must fulfill this necessity. Daycares are tasked not only with watching over children while parents work, but must also look after them properly. They must ensure that children remain safe, have secure shelter, and live well. These three factors are essential for children to grow optimally, both physically and mentally. By securing these aspects, children will feel safe, stable, and capable of developing well (Sitisaroh et al., 2025).

Beyond assisting in child care, daycares also serve as a forum for cooperation between caregiving institutions and families. A positive relationship between caregivers and parents is vital to ensure that child-rearing progresses smoothly, both at home and at the daycare. Effective communication enables parents to receive regular updates regarding their child's development, health, and daily activities. With proper coordination, childhood needs can be better fulfilled because the upbringing patterns at home and at the daycare align harmoniously (Vitriani et al., 2025).

Child Abuse Cases in Daycares in Palembang City

Violence against children remains a major issue in Palembang City. Children, being the most vulnerable, risk falling victim to violence at home, in the community, at school, or in orphanages. Numerous child abuse cases demonstrate that child protection has not operated smoothly, despite the existence of regulations safeguarding their rights. The situation becomes even more distressing when violence occurs in places that are supposedly safe, such as schools or daycares (Holipah & Asmawati, 2023).

The demand for daycare services in Palembang City has risen sharply. This surge is driven by the growing number of working women and shifts in urban lifestyles. Many parents now entrust their children to daycare institutions during working hours. Under these circumstances, daycares carry an immense responsibility; they must ensure that every child receives proper, safe, and age-appropriate care. Because parents place their trust in daycares, child protection becomes a paramount aspect. This parental trust makes child protection an inseparable component of daycare services. Daycares must look after children meticulously and ensure they grow healthily (Dewi & Kasih, 2023).

Within Palembang City, child abuse remains a profound challenge, given that numerous cases still occur within caregiving institutions. For example, cases of physical and verbal abuse against several children have previously occurred in a care facility in Palembang. This indicates that children in caregiving institutions remain at risk of becoming victims of harmful actions if child supervision and protection are ineffective. Although that specific incident occurred in a non-daycare care facility, it serves as an important indicator that we need to reinforce child protection systems across all caregiving institutions, including daycares handling early childhood (Susiana, 2025).

Child abuse cases in daycares in Palembang City are part of the broader issue of violence against children occurring within care institutions. This abuse can manifest as physical hitting, verbal vitriol, or mental distress inflicted by caregivers or other individuals around the daycare. Such violent actions not only cause children physical suffering but can also inflict long-term trauma that disrupts their emotional and social development. Abuse cases in daycares indicate that these institutions have failed to execute their core duty, which is to properly nurture and

protect children. Children should feel safe and comfortable in daycares, rather than enduring violence that can adversely impact their lives (Effendi & Adhari, 2025).

CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that protecting child victims of violence in child care centers or daycares is our collective responsibility. This means that families, communities, daycare operators, and the government must collaborate to preserve child safety. Children represent the most vulnerable group and require protection from all forms of violence, whether physical, verbal, or psychological. Regrettably, abuse cases within child care institutions still persist, indicating that the child protection system has not yet operated effectively.

A daycare is an institution that assists parents in nurturing, educating, and protecting their children while parents are at work. However, because many parents in Palembang City require daycare services, the quality of nurturing, caregiver competence, and supervisory mechanisms must be elevated. This is critical to ensure that children remain protected and receive proper care.

These incidents serve as a poignant reminder of how vital it is to safeguard children, particularly within child care facilities in Palembang City. All parties—including the government, child care operators, parents, and the community—must work in synergy to build a superior child protection system. Enhancing the quality of care and establishing routine supervision can help prevent similar occurrences. Furthermore, strict law enforcement against perpetrators of violence is critical. Education regarding children's rights must also be intensified so that children can grow in a safe and comfortable environment, free from violence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations derived from this study are as follows:

- a. For the public: The community plays an essential role in supervising the environments where children grow and learn. Should any child abuse occur, it must be reported immediately. Together, we can construct a better child protection system.
- b. For future research: Subsequent studies need to conduct direct empirical research through interviews or observations within daycare institutions in Palembang City. The objective is to obtain a clearer overview regarding child protection practices, the root causes of violence, and the efficacy of existing supervisory systems.

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