

Proving Sexual Grooming in Child Molestation Crimes (Case Study at the Padang Panjang District Attorney's Office)

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Abstract. *The study entitled 'Proof of Sexual Grooming in Child Molestation Crimes (A Case Study at the Padang Panjang District Attorney's Office)' is significant due to the increasing rate of crimes against children, the shift in perspectives within child protection legislation, the limited literacy and understanding among public prosecutors regarding sexual grooming, and the existing legal vacuum concerning the regulation of sexual grooming. This research aims (1) to identify and analyze the evidence of sexual grooming during the prosecution process and (2) to analyze the obstacles and solutions in implementing the proof of sexual grooming. This research employs a descriptive-analytical method with a normative legal research approach. Data collection and analysis were conducted through library research using statutory, case, and conceptual approaches. The findings indicate, first, that the evidence of sexual grooming by public prosecutors in children molestation cases is carried out by examining the evidence presented during trial proceedings. The most crucial evidence in proving sexual grooming is documentary evidence in the form of a Visa et Psychiatric or psychological records of the child victims, which are further strengthened by expert testimony. Second, the obstacles encountered in proving sexual grooming are based on three legal factors. From the perspective of legal substance, there is currently no specific legislation regulating sexual grooming. From the legal structure perspective, law enforcement officers often lack sufficient understanding and expertise regarding sexual grooming. From the legal culture perspective, public awareness and understanding of sexual grooming in child molestation cases remain limited. To address these obstacles, several solutions are proposed: (1) the establishment of specific regulations governing sexual grooming; (2) the optimization of electronic evidence utilization; (3) the implementation of a multidisciplinary approach; and (4) the enhancement of law enforcement officers' capacity and competence.*

Keywords: *Child; Evidence; Grooming; Molestation; Sexual.*

1. Introduction

Every child in Indonesia is the nation's hope. The country has high hopes for Indonesian children to participate in uplifting and nurturing the nation. Name Indonesia in world. Protection to child on a country, is benchmark civilization nation the and therefore must be pursued in accordance with the capabilities of the nation and state. ¹ With this, the state is present to provide legal certainty in protecting children in Indonesia with the presence of Law Number 17 of 2016 concerning the Stipulation of Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2016 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection into Law as a legal guarantee for every part of a child's life. Child protection is all activities to guarantee and protect children and their rights so that can life, grow, develop participate in a way optimal in accordance with human dignity and honor, and receive protection from violence and discrimination. ² In this Law, the category of child in Indonesia is a person who is not yet 18 years old and includes children who Still in in content. ³ Existence Constitution Protection

The law regarding child protection has been amended several times. certainty law for protection child first appeared in Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, where in this Law as a form of ratification of the international convention on children's rights, namely the ratification of the Convention on Children's Rights through the Decree President Number 36 Year 1990 about Confirmation *Convention on The Rights of the Child (Convention on the Rights of the Child)*. The A Quo Law further emphasizes the responsibilities of parents, families, communities, governments, and the state as a series of activities carried out continuously to protect children's rights. In the author's opinion, at that time, the lawmakers only focused on how the state could protect Indonesian children in a sustainable manner, resulting in more preventive *action* and a low rate of crimes involving children in conflict with the law. on moment That. Two twelve years Then, country do changes to child protection laws with the existence of Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection. This proves that the state is not only emphasize protection sustainability development Child but also respond various type problem Which happen during the enactment of Law Number 23 of 2002. Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency, the percentage of child victims of crime has increased from year to year. to year. For examples just, on year 2007 as much as 263,006 child who are victims of criminal acts ranging from molestation, abuse to murder and in 2013 the number of child victims of criminal acts increased to 268,371 children. ⁴

This became one of the driving factors for updating the Child Protection Law. Therefore, in 2014, the state updated this existing legal instrument with Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection. The state made this change because it saw that Child

Protection was not yet effective due to overlapping regulations. legislation sectoral related with definition Child And in the other side Also the rise crime to Child in public Which Wrong The only concern is sexual crimes against children.⁵ Changes to the Law Protection Child in year 2014 more emphasize about the need for weighting sanctions criminal and fine for perpetrator crime to child the aim of which is to provide a deterrent effect, as well as encourage concrete steps to restore the physical, psychological and social well-being of Children in Conflict with the Law. With in a period of 2 (two) years, changes to instruments related to protection child changed return with presence Constitution Number 17 of 2016, which amends the articles in this Law to keep up with the times with the rampant negative impacts of the development of information and communication technology, especially those that have a significant impact on the increase in violence against children, especially those related to sexual violence.⁶ With this change, lawmakers feel that previous legal instruments have not been able to significantly reduce the level of sexual violence against children. Based on data from the Indonesian Child Protection Commission, the increase in the number of complaints of sexual violence against children has increased every year and recorded 1,171 complaints received regarding children as victims of sexual violence from 2016 to 2020.⁷ In 2020, the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) handled 5,953 cases, where children as victims of sexual crimes ranked second with the highest number of cases handled and reported to the KPAI.⁸ Looking at the developments to date, it has been recorded that in 2026 the number of number crime sexual with Child as Victim still increased. Based on data from KPAI on year 2026 recorded as much as 679 (six hundred and seventy nine) cases, with children as victims of sexual abuse being the highest cluster.

Based on data the, of course Already duly country increase sanctions criminalization for perpetrator action criminal violence sexual Good Rape or molestation committed against children. According to *the End Child Prostitution in Asia Tourism* (ECPAT) International, sexual violence against children is a relationship or interaction between a child and an older person or adult, such as a stranger, sibling, or parent, where the child is used as an object to satisfy the perpetrator's sexual needs.⁹ This act is carried out using coercion, threats, bribery, deception, or even pressure.¹⁰ In other words, sexual violence is every action Which is coercion connection Sexual violence in an unnatural or unwanted manner, forcing sexual relations with another person for commercial purposes and/or certain purposes. Sexual violence is any act that occurs in the form of coercion or threats to have sexual relations, committing torture or acting sadistically and abandoning someone, including those who are classified as Still aged children after do connection sexuality. Forms violence sexual That Alone Can in action rape or molestation. As explained in Law Number 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code (hereinafter referred to as the Criminal Code), molestation is regulated in Articles 414 to 418 of the Criminal Code.

In the latest Child Protection Instrument, lawmakers have increased criminal sanctions and added additional penalties for perpetrators of sexual violence against children. In Article 81 and Article 82 of Law Number 17 of 2016, which regulates criminal sanctions for anyone who forces a child to engage in sexual intercourse and indecent acts, the criminal sanctions and fines have not changed. However, the latest instrument adds aggravation to the criminal threat by adding 1/3 (one third) of the criminal threat for perpetrators committed by parents, guardians, people who have family ties, child caretakers, educators, education personnel, officials handling child protection or committed by more than one person together, as well as for repeat offenders in the same article's ruling. In addition to the expansion subject criminalization, in instrument latest Also add criminal sanctions sanctions criminal fine If consequence from actions cause more than 1 (one) victim, resulting in serious injury, mental disorders, infectious diseases, impaired or loss of reproductive function, and/or death world, so Perpetrator convicted dead, lifetime life, or imprisonment of at least 10 (ten) years and at most 20 (twenty) years. So that, in criminalization in instrument latest has present threat of the death penalty for perpetrators of sexual violence, whether rape or molestation. Not only does the threat of the death penalty for perpetrators of sexual violence maximize, additional penalties are also regulated in Law Number 17 of 2016 concerning Determination Regulation Government Substitute Law Number 1 years 2016 about Change Second on Constitution Number 23 2002 Law on Child Protection became law. The additional criminal penalties covering announcement identity perpetrator, castration chemistry And installation of electronic detection devices for perpetrators with special subjects, namely parents, guardians, people who have family relationships, child carers, educators, education personnel, officers who handle child protection or carried out by more than one person together, also for recidivist perpetrators in decision the article that The same, Which later criminal addition The sentence is decided together with the main sentence and includes a time period for carrying out the action.

Increased criminal sanctions in the latest Child Protection Law become form response positive responsiveness country in provide protection for children, especially in cases of sexual violence. Along with with change era and development technology, only innovations in science continue to advance and develop, but also forms crimes and their methods operations for committing the crime. in the past, before the proliferation of information via the internet and social media, crimes were generally committed conventionally and directly without intermediaries. Furthermore, the execution of the intention (*mens rea*) was directly reflected in the act (*actus reus*) with a conventional *modus operandi*. However, as time has progressed, the *modus operandi* in do actions action criminal the more diverse specifically in committing criminal acts of sexual violence against children.

Various *modus operandi* haves emerged and are used by perpetrators to carry out

criminal acts of sexual violence against children, one of which is currently being widely carried out, namely *sexual grooming* as one of the modus operandi. For do action criminal violence sexual on Child. *Sexual Grooming* become highlight due to mode operations Which done Unlike most crimes of sexual violence, where the perpetrator, before committing an indecent act or raping a child, begins by approaching and building a relationship and feeling comfortable with the victim, in this case the child victim, in order to facilitate the sexual violence that will be carried out by the perpetrator.

Currently, there is no *lex specialist regulation* governing sexual violence crimes with *sexual grooming* as a modus operandi. However, Law Number 17 of 2016 concerning the Stipulation of Government Regulations in Lieu of Laws (PPL) does provide a legal basis for the criminal act of sexual violence. Number 1 Year 2016 about Change Second on Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection becomes Law, *sexual grooming* in Action Criminal Violence Sexual can integrated into several articles in the *A Quo* Law, namely Article 81 *in conjunction with* Article 76D and Article 82 *in conjunction with* Article 76E of the Child Protection Law. Based on Chapter the, *sexual grooming* integrated as an act of deception, a series of lies or persuading a child with the aim of getting the child to engage in sexual intercourse and/or molestation. Although the series of acts of *sexual grooming* do use elements of deception, a series lie or persuade Child For carry out these acts, but in essence, *sexual grooming* is carried out by the perpetrator by manipulating the child so that the child has the same desire to commit the crime of sexual violence.

On in reality, country Not yet fully succeed fulfil mandate of the law Base 1945 For protect rights child from discrimination and violence, specifically violence sexual. Matter This proven with high number of cases of sexual violence against children has not shown a significant decline from year to year. Data from the Child Information System On line Protection Woman and Child (SYMPHONY-PPA) in 2023–2024 showed that children were still the most dominant group as victims of sexual violence.

In connection with the above matters that the author has conveyed, then here becomes problem apparatus enforcer law in handle cases action criminal violence sexual to Child, especially to The Public Prosecutor as the central controller of the case will later determine actions perpetrator confronted with elements chapter which will be compiled in the Public Prosecutor's indictment. Based on the Author's search results, there are still very few Public Prosecutors who include *sexual grooming* as a modus operandi and are proven in the charges. Public Prosecutors are still fixated on the elements in Articles 81 and 82 of the *A Quo* Law, thus ignoring the perpetrator's manipulative actions in deceiving the child victim to commit the crime of sexual violence. In fact, in the Author's opinion, the *sexual grooming actions* carried out by the Perpetrator by making the victim feel

comfortable and manipulating are reasons for aggravating the sentence.

2. Research Methods

The type of research used is normative legal research (normative juridical), which is research conducted by reviewing library materials or secondary data. This research focuses on the analysis of legal norms and their application in practice through a study of court decisions regarding the evidence of *sexual grooming* in child molestation crimes. study This is descriptive-analytical, that is study which aim describe in a way systematic about *sexual proof grooming* in action criminal molestation child as well as analyzing its application in court decisions. Data collection techniques are carried out through library research, namely by reviewing and collecting primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials relevant to the research.

2. Results And Discussion

3.1. Implementation of Evidence of *Sexual Grooming* in Child Molestation Crimes in Indonesia

The development of technology and the influence of modernization and globalization have brought about many new changes in human life, and this has not ruled out the possibility of giving rise to many new crimes, both in terms of motives and modus operandi. The phenomenon of *sexual grooming* is one such new phenomenon. Which appear become Wrong One mode operations perpetrator action crime of sexual violence, especially against children.

This new phenomenon is being responded to not only on a national scale but also Also unsettling public in all over world with existence *sexual grooming* mode in committing crimes of sexual violence against Child. According to *National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children* (NSPCC) as one of the Child Protection Movements in the United Kingdom responds to *sexual grooming* as a situation when a child is not aware forming a relationship with the perpetrator that creates a sense of trust and emotional connection with a child and/or teenager so that the perpetrator can easily carry out the action manipulation, exploitation even do violence or lead to sexual abuse of children.⁷⁵ In this sense, the author feels that the definition of *sexual grooming* is not quite right because it emphasizes the role of the child in forming a relationship, not emphasizing the perpetrator as the main actor in forming it. situation comfortable to Child. Based on *The International Center for Missing & Exploited Children* (ICMEC), *sexual grooming* is defined as follows '*sexual grooming refers to an act that establishes or builds a relationship with a child under the age of 18 in order to facilitate either non-contact (online) or contact (offline) sexual interaction with that child and involves psychological manipulation that is usually very subtle, drawn out, calculated, controlling, and premediated with the goal of establishing an emotional connection with a child in order to lower the child's inhibitions. Through the grooming process an Offender*

seeks to gain the child's obedience to maintain secrecy and to avoid detection and punishment”.

Academics also provide a lot of understanding about *sexual grooming*, Professor Alisdair Gillespie as a Lancaster professor University in English in field *cybercrime* more especially regarding *child sexual exploitation* or sexual exploitation of children, it provides an understanding of *sexual grooming*, namely as a process Where a child do friendship with a person suspected of committing violence with the aim of obtaining consent or with say other so that perpetrator in get access to child victims. Rachel O'Connell, a researcher from the University of Central Lancashire defining *grooming* as behavior Which done by Suspect (*pedophile*) Which give reason to arrange a meeting with a child for the purpose of breaking the law. In this sense, the author believes it is broad because *grooming* is not only carried out by perpetrators for the crime of sexual violence against children but also by inviting children to commit other, more serious crimes.

Enforcer law and for expert in knowledge Which support in criminal act *sexual grooming* Also give definition alone, James Knoll, as a Forensic Psychiatrist, explains that *grooming* is a process where a sex offender initiates and maintains a relationship in the form of sexual abuse with a child and *grooming* is an approach arranged by the perpetrator with the aim of having a sexual relationship and keeping it secret.

By looking at and analyzing the definitions of *sexual grooming* above along with the obstacles of the lack of national literacy that discusses it related *sexual grooming*, writer conclude that *Sexual grooming* is a situation created by the perpetrator by making the child comfortable and manipulating the child with the aim of making the child have... will Which The same for do connection sexual and satisfy the perpetrator. in this sense, the author defines *sexual grooming* as a situation created in such a way by the perpetrator who already has the intention to commit the crime of sexual violence. in the form of obscene or rape to child. situation the made with method make child comfortable and convincing child so that children are manipulated and feel that committing indecent acts and rape is something normal and commonplace, so that the child has the same desire to have sexual relations with the perpetrator.

Sexual grooming actions generally have 3 (three) types of perpetrators, namely as follows:

- 1) Type of Offender with Distorted Attachment, in this type the Offender wants a relationship with the child;
- 2) Adaptable *sexual groomer type*, which where perpetrator want to satisfying desire sexual by seeing the target as a capable and mature person;
- 3) Type Perpetrator Hypersexual (*hyber-sexualized offender*), type This The

perpetrator felt addicted to child pornography content and had significant relationships with other perpetrators.'

Stages of *sexual grooming according to the Roots of Grooming Strategy* theory Which initiated by Rachel O'Connell shared become 5 (five) stages, namely as follows: ⁸¹

- 1) Stage Formation Friendship (*friendship-forming stage*);
- 2) Tahao Formation Connection (*relationship – forming stage*);
- 3) Stage Consideration Risk *assessment stage*);
- 4) Stage Exclusivity (*exclusivity stage*); and
- 5) Stage Sexual (*sexual stage*)

According to O'Connell, in the first two stages, namely the stage of forming friendships and forming relationships, the *groomer* collects information about the child, monitors the vulnerability gaps in the child and uses this information to make... child Which has monitored as target main. ⁸² Next, the perpetrator enters the risk consideration stage where in this stage the perpetrator will look at the risk of whether the perpetrator can be detected and assess whether confidentiality conversation between perpetrator and victims will safe, and if already confirmed safe so Perpetrator continue to stage the next stage is the exclusivity stage. ⁸³ In this stage, the perpetrator will create a sense of exclusivity toward the child by providing closeness and comfort, until the perpetrator can enter the final stage, the sexual stage, to achieve their goal of committing sexual violence in the form of rape or child molestation. ⁸⁴

grooming stages is also supported by Psychological Theory Which called as *Olson's Theory of Offline Communication (LCT)* or can called as theory persuade, where according to theory there is this 3 (three) stages when *groomer* get access on Child. ⁸⁵ The first stage of building a relationship of trust (*deceptive trust development*), in this stage the perpetrator exchanges personal information such as age, likes and dislikes, which allows the perpetrator to create similarities between the two and dig up information about the victim. Next, in the *grooming stage (grooming). stage*), in stage This Perpetrator invite curiosity sexual harassment of the victim by involving sexual terms so as to trap the child into sexual behavior, so that at this stage the perpetrator begins his actions with nurse And trap child in a way communicative so that when the victim starts to trust the perpetrator, the victim will start to become isolated from Friend And his family Which Finally to be continued on stage the end is approach physique (*physically approach*) with request timetable also the location of the child for the perpetrator to carry out his actions.

In terms of *sexual grooming*, there are also 6 (six) general things that underlie

online child grooming, namely as follows: ⁸⁶

1) Manipulation;

Sexual grooming involves several forms of manipulation, with perpetrators employing various techniques to increase their victims' power and control over them. Various manipulation techniques are used to increase the perpetrator's power and control over the victim and to increase their dependence on them, such as compliments to make them feel special. This manipulation is used to make the victim feel loved and cared for. Conversely, perpetrators can control the victim through intimidation, making the victim fear them.

2) Accessibility (*Accessibility*);

Easy access to interact with victims is one factor in *sexual grooming*, where perpetrators can access victims through social media. Perpetrators utilize internet technology to interact with victims, either one-way or two-way, through social media messages.

3) Build Relationship (*Rapport Building*);

As part of building a relationship, the perpetrator adjusts their behavior and communication style to make the victim feel comfortable talking to them. Furthermore, the perpetrator inquires about the victim's interests and circumstances to conceal their actions from others and typically asks the victim to keep their relationship a secret.

4) Context Sexual (*Sexual Context*);

Sexual intercourse is the goal of *sexual grooming*, whether through penetration or not. When and how sexual intercourse begins depends on each individual and involves various methods, such as lewd language, seduction, sending pornographic images, or engaging in pornographic content.

5) Evaluation Risk (*Risk Assessment*);

Risk assessment of the victim is carried out before and during *sexual grooming* by the perpetrator, which is seen from several aspects, namely the individual victim and factors related to the environment so that the perpetrator can carry out risk management.

6) Disguise (*Deception*)

In *sexual grooming* that is carried out *online*, the perpetrator usually disguises himself as someone of the same age as the victim. child And Part big my stove telling you victim that they person mature Which want to build a s p e c i a l relationship with the victim. Therefore, it can be concluded that most victims are aware that they are communicating with an adult and are taking the risk of

interacting with the perpetrator.

One of the decisions that proves the existence of *sexual grooming* as a modus operandi in the Crime of Sexual Violence is Decision Number xx/Pid.Sus/2021/PN Pdp in the name of MS, which was decided by the Padang Panjang District Court and prosecuted by the Prosecutor from the Padang Panjang District Attorney's Office. This thesis is one of the decisions that includes *sexual grooming* as an element of the modus operandi. action criminal violence sexual on Child, Where in The Public Prosecutor's demands contain elements of *sexual grooming* and prove that this is the perpetrator's modus operandi in carrying out his actions of committing the crime of child molestation.

In his decision, the convict MS was charged with a single charge by the Public Prosecutor of the Padang Panjang District Attorney's Office with Article 82 paragraph (1) And (2) *jo.* Chapter 76 E Constitution Number 17 2016 about Determination Regulation Government Replacement Law Number 1 of 2016 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection becomes Law Which states *'every person Which do violence or threat of violence, coercion, deception, carrying out a series of acts lie or persuade child For do or allowing obscene acts to be committed against children by parents, guardians, people who have family ties, child caretakers, educators, education personnel, officials who handle child protection, or carried out by more than one person together'*. The Public Prosecutor in this case used legal interpretation to include *sexual grooming* as a modus operandi due to Not yet existence rule related *sexual grooming* in the Child Protection Law.

In his demands, the Public Prosecutor demanded that the Convict be sentenced to 10 (ten) years and a fine of IDR 60,000,000 (sixty million rupiah). subsidiary 4 (four) month confinement. Demands the based on the evidence provided by the Public Prosecutor by presenting evidence in trial. Prosecutor General do Proof with the system proof based on Constitution in a way negative (*negative wettelijk*) in this system the basis of the Public Prosecutor's prosecution is a minimum of 2 (two) pieces of evidence contained in the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP). In the trial, the Public Prosecutor presents tool proof that is Information Witness Which covering Witness Statement from the Victim's Child, Witness Statement from the Victim's Child's family, namely the Victim's Child's Mother, the Victim's Child's Father and the Victim's Child's Siblings, Witness Statement from the Victim's Child's school, namely the Founder of the Al-Hijrah Padang Panjang IT Middle School Foundation and the Al-Hijrah IT Middle School Security Guard Padang Long. Besides That, Prosecutor General Also presenting a Psychological Expert who examined the mental condition of the Child Victim after experiencing the Criminal Act of Molestation by the Convict. The written evidence used in proving this Criminal Act of Molestation is in the form of Psychological Medical Notes made by the Psychological Expert who examined the Child Victim in this case. Clue

evidence was also found from the relationship between the testimony of the Child Victim Witness and the testimony of other witnesses. In addition to written evidence in the form of a *Visum et Repertum*, indicative evidence is very vital in proving the Criminal Act of Molestation which is supported by evidence found by the Investigator.

The most important evidence in determining the existence of *sexual grooming* as a modus operandi is expert testimony, along with a *psychiatric visum et repertum* or psychological medical records conducted by a psychologist. In this decision, the Public Prosecutor presented a psychological expert to examine the child's mental state. after become victim molestation. No only inspect the child's mental condition, the expert can also see the child's ability to provide information and explain criminal events that concern him/her and also check whether the child was manipulated by the perpetrator's actions so that he/she wanted to commit indecent acts together with the perpetrator.

3.2. Obstacles and Solutions in Implementing Evidence of *Sexual Grooming* in Child Molestation Crimes

Based on the discussion above, it is not impossible for the Public Prosecutor to prove the presence of *sexual grooming* an incident of child molestation. However, several obstacles were encountered Which result in lack of Prosecutor General proving the existence of elements of *sexual grooming* in the crime of child molestation. Through the Legal System Theory by Lawrence Friedman, which divides the legal system into 3 (three) components, namely (a) legal substance; (b) legal structure law; (c) culture law, Writer will elaborate obstacles in the implementation of evidence of *Sexual Grooming* by the Public Prosecutor in Child Molestation Crimes.

The phenomenon of *sexual grooming* as a modus operandi in committing crimes of molestation and rape is something that must be highlighted and studied by academics and law enforcement officers who will handle cases of sexual violence. In reality, this new phenomenon is rarely found, and very little is found in national literature discussing *sexual grooming* as a modus operandi that is currently developing in Indonesia. Not only is this lack of literacy regarding *sexual grooming*, this is also found in how law enforcement officers construct legal cases, especially crimes of sexual violence, which make *sexual grooming* as mode operations in carry out the crime. In handling crimes of sexual violence that use *sexual grooming* as the modus operandi, the Public Prosecutor often does not describe *sexual grooming* as the modus operandi in his/her indictment. Sexual violence against children. This occurs not only due to the inability of the Public Prosecutor as the *legal structure* in law enforcement, but also requires consideration of other aspects that influence law enforcement. According to *Lawrence Friedman*, the success of law enforcement can be measured from three aspects: *legal substance*, *legal structure*, and finally, *legal culture*.

From a *legal standpoint*, the current Child Protection Law does not yet regulate *sexual grooming* as a *modus operandi* in committing sexual violence against children. This legal gap is one of the obstacles for *legal structures*, or in this case, investigators and public prosecutors, in proving *sexual grooming* in sexual violence cases. to Child. In Articles related to with the crimes of rape and molestation in the Child Protection Law only cover deception, a series of lies, and persuading a child to commit molestation or have sexual intercourse with a child. Meanwhile, attempts to manipulate a child into committing an act of molestation are not covered. molestation or intercourse Not yet There is arranged in Constitution Protection Child. Matter This Which make Prosecutor The public, as the central controller of the case, interprets the law to prove the existence of a series of manipulations carried out by the perpetrator so that the child has the same will and is willing to commit indecent acts or sexual intercourse with the perpetrator. Legal interpretation Which done by Prosecutor General is do interpretation in terms of theological or sociological. In his demands, Prosecutor Prosecutor Generally, *sexual grooming is described* through a teleological interpretation approach. And sociological, which where interpret mode *sexual grooming* in accordance with the objectives or intent of a statutory regulation that is Constitution Protection Child. No only While looking at the aims and intent of the law, the Public Prosecutor also pays attention to the development of *modus operandi* and changes in people's lives in the Crime of Sexual Violence. Therefore, the Public Prosecutor interprets the manipulative actions carried out by the Convict as a trick and a lie, even though the resulting consequences are different, namely the Child does not feel deceived but feels that the actions carried out by the Perpetrator in molesting the Child are a normal thing to do. Culture law public or *legal culture* Also Not yet perfect in understanding and knowing about *sexual grooming*, as evidenced by the minimal literature found regarding *sexual grooming*. It is also very difficult found products law Which load element *sexual grooming*, Wrong the only one decision court Which powerful permanent law.

To address these obstacles, there are solutions for public prosecutors to prove *sexual grooming* in child molestation cases. The author provides the following solutions:

- 1) So that there is the formation of regulations that regulate *sexual grooming*;

That there needs to be explicit regulations governing *sexual grooming*, expanding the elements of sexual crimes against children and guidelines proof in case based manipulation digital and psychological. With written rules, it becomes a guideline apparatus enforcer law specifically Prosecutor General in proving the existence of elements of *sexual grooming* in the crime of child molestation.

- 2) In order to optimize the use of electronic evidence; That based on Article 235 of the Criminal Procedure Code, electronic evidence is one of the One tool proof

Which can strengthen proof a crime. The Public Prosecutor is required to maximize the evidence digital and use results digital forensic, also presents proof communication electronic as instruction like chat, History calling, media social, photos/videos, and digital transactions. This can strengthen evidence of the perpetrator's manipulation of the child victim.

3) So that there is approach multidisciplinary;

Discussions about *sexual grooming* involve not only legal studies but also psychology, which can explain *grooming patterns* and the psychological impact on victims. The use of psychology in proving *sexual grooming* can also demonstrate a manipulative relationship between the perpetrator and the victim.

4) In order to increase the capacity of law enforcement officers; with existence development mode operations, apparatus law enforcer need for add outlook Also treasure trove of knowledge related mode *sexual grooming*. Apparatus enforcer law expected capable read pattern relation child perpetrator Victim.

With existence solution the expected can make it easier Public Prosecutors in carrying out evidence of *sexual grooming* in criminal acts of child molestation.

4. Conclusion

In Proving *sexual grooming* in child molestation crimes in Indonesia requires careful steps by the public prosecutor. This was previously implemented by the public prosecutor at the Padang Panjang District Attorney's Office. with Decision Number xx/Pid.Sus/2021/PN Pdp on MS's name was decided by the Padang Panjang District Court. In its decision, the Convict MS was charged with a single charge by the Public Prosecutor of the Padang Panjang District Prosecutor's Office with Article 82 paragraph (1) and (2) *in conjunction* with Article 76 E of Law Number 17 of 2016 concerning the Stipulation of Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2016 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection. The Public Prosecutor in this case used a legal interpretation enter *sexual grooming* as mode operandi due to the absence of regulations regarding *sexual grooming* in the Law Protection Child. Tool proof Which become the most important element determine existence *sexual grooming* as The modus operandi is evidence in the form of expert testimony along with a *psychiatric visum et repertum* or psychological medical records conducted by a psychologist. In this decision, the Public Prosecutor presents a psychological expert to examine the child's mental state after becoming a victim of sexual abuse. Not only does the expert examine the child's mental state, but he can also assess the child's ability to provide information and describe the criminal incident involving him, as well as examine whether the child was manipulated by the perpetrator's actions, leading to the desire to commit sexual abuse with the perpetrator. Therefore, the presence of a psychologist is vital. *Visa et repertum psychiatry* or notes medical psychology to prove *sexual grooming*.

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