



Law Enforcement in Handling Murder Crimes in the South Tapanuli Police Area

Agus Ramanda Putra^{1*}, Nursariani Simatupang²

Magister Ilmu Hukum Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara

Corresponding Author: Agus Ramanda Putra; agusramanda37@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Law enforcement against the crime of murder is an important part of realizing the protection of the right to life, legal certainty, and justice for victims and their families. This study aims to analyze law enforcement in handling murder crimes in the jurisdiction of the South Tapanuli Police and identify obstacles and efforts made to overcome these obstacles. This research uses normative legal research methods with legislative, conceptual, and case approaches. Legal materials are analyzed qualitatively through juridical reasoning on the provisions of criminal law, criminal procedural law, and law enforcement concepts. The results of the study show that law enforcement against the crime of murder is carried out through the stages of investigation, investigation, evidence collection, witness examination, perpetrator identification, and case settlement in accordance with applicable legal provisions. The obstacles faced include limited evidence, difficulty in obtaining witness statements, geographical conditions, limited human resources, and investigative facilities and infrastructure. Efforts to overcome this are carried out through increasing investigator competence, optimizing investigative technology and facilities, strengthening institutional coordination, and increasing community participation.

INTRODUCTION

The crime of murder is a form of crime that has a high level of seriousness because it directly eliminates a person's right to life. The right to life is a fundamental right guaranteed by the state and is part of human rights that must be respected, protected, and upheld. From the perspective of criminal law, murder not only causes harm to the victim and the victim's family, but also disrupts order, security, and a sense of justice in people's lives. Therefore, handling the crime of murder requires a law enforcement process that is professional, effective, transparent, and oriented towards certainty and legal justice (Ismail, Hamdan, 2023).

Law enforcement against the crime of murder basically involves a series of stages, starting from receiving reports or complaints, conducting investigations and investigations, securing the crime scene, collecting evidence, identifying and arresting the perpetrators, to submitting the case file to the public prosecutor. In this process, the police have a strategic position because it is one of the first institutions to deal directly with criminal events. The success of the investigation process greatly determines whether a criminal act can be clearly disclosed and whether the perpetrator can be held accountable based on the applicable law (Gunawan, Ruslan Renggong, 2026).

Normatively, the authority of the police in handling criminal acts is based on Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia and the provisions of the criminal procedure law. The police have the duty to conduct investigations and investigations into criminal acts and take other actions necessary in the context of carrying out their duties in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations. In the case of murder, this authority must be exercised by paying attention to the provisions of the material criminal law regarding crimes against life and the criminal procedure law regarding evidence, examination of witnesses, suspects, evidence, and other investigative actions (Cynthia Cornelia Leasa, Sherly Adam, 2024).

In practice, the handling of the crime of murder does not always run simply. Murder events can occur in different conditions and often cause problems in the disclosure process, especially related to the identification of the perpetrator, collection of evidence, examination of witnesses, reconstruction of the event, determination of motives, and proof of the relationship between the perpetrator and the consequences caused. The geographical conditions of the region, the limitation of initial information, the characteristics of the community, the existence of witnesses, and the ability to obtain evidence can also affect the effectiveness of the investigation and investigation process. Therefore, law enforcement against the crime of murder can not only be judged from the success of arresting the perpetrator, but also from how the entire legal process is carried out according to procedures and is able to produce evidence that can be accounted for (Angga Dwilaksono Prakoso, 2022).

The South Tapanuli Police have an important role in maintaining public security and order and handling various criminal acts that occur in its jurisdiction, including murder. The characteristics of jurisdictions that have diverse social and geographical conditions can be factors that need to be considered in the

implementation of law enforcement. In this context, the effectiveness of handling murder cases needs to be seen from the ability of police officers to receive information, conduct investigations, secure and process crime scenes, collect evidence, identify perpetrators, and conduct investigations until the case can be processed in accordance with the provisions of the law.

In addition to the aspect of handling cases, it is also important to examine the various obstacles faced by police officers in the process of law enforcement against murders. These obstacles can come from internal and external factors, such as limited human resources, investigative facilities and infrastructure, difficulties in obtaining evidence, limited information from the public, geographical conditions, and other factors that can affect the case disclosure process. Identification of these obstacles is important because it can provide an overview of the real conditions of law enforcement as well as be the basis for formulating efforts to increase the effectiveness of handling murder crimes (Rizky Amelia, Sukmareni, 2023).

Based on this description, research on law enforcement in handling murder crimes in the South Tapanuli Police area is important to be carried out. This study not only examines how the law enforcement process is carried out by the police, but also analyzes the obstacles faced and the efforts made to overcome them. Thus, this research is expected to provide a more comprehensive picture of the implementation of law enforcement against murder crimes in the jurisdiction of the South Tapanuli Police and contribute to strengthening the effectiveness of law enforcement, legal certainty, and protection of the community.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Law Enforcement Theory

Law enforcement theory is used as an analytical foundation to understand how the provisions of criminal law are applied in handling the crime of murder. Law enforcement is not only interpreted as a repressive act against the perpetrator, but is a process that includes receiving reports, investigations, investigations, collecting and examining evidence, arrests, determination of suspects, and handing over cases to the public prosecutor. In the context of the crime of murder, law enforcement requires police officers to ensure that every investigative action is carried out based on the authority given by the law, while still paying attention to the principles of legal certainty, justice, professionalism, and protection of human rights. Therefore, law enforcement theory can be used to assess the compatibility between the provisions of criminal law and criminal procedure law with the practice of handling murder cases by the South Tapanuli Police (Johan Rofi, Fauzie Yusuf Hasibuan, 2025).

The application of law enforcement theory in this study is directed to analyze how the South Tapanuli Police carry out the function of the police in uncovering the crime of murder, starting from finding criminal events to identifying and uncovering the involvement of the perpetrators. The effectiveness of law enforcement is also related to the ability of the authorities to build a case construction based on legitimate evidence, reveal the motive and series of events, and ensure that the investigation process can be legally

accounted for. Thus, the theory of law enforcement provides a framework to analyze whether the handling of murder crimes in the jurisdiction of the South Tapanuli Police has been carried out consistently with the legal objectives, namely providing legal certainty, justice for victims and their families, and criminal accountability for the perpetrators (Budiman, 2024).

Legal Effectiveness Theory

The theory of legal effectiveness is used to analyze the extent to which legal provisions governing the handling of the crime of murder can be implemented effectively in practice. The existence of legal norms does not in itself guarantee the achievement of law enforcement goals, because their application is influenced by various factors, including the quality and professionalism of law enforcement officials, the availability of facilities and infrastructure, community conditions, and the social environment in which the law is applied. In research on the handling of murder crimes in the South Tapanuli Police area, the theory of legal effectiveness is relevant to identify the gap between the legal provisions that should be applied and the factual conditions faced by the authorities in the investigation and investigation process (Noor Rahmad, 2025).

This theory is then used to analyze various obstacles that can affect the effectiveness of handling murder crimes, both from internal and external sources of the police. Internal factors can be related to the availability and competence of investigators, support for investigation technology, means of identification and examination of evidence, and operational budget support. Meanwhile, external factors can be in the form of geographical conditions of the jurisdiction, limited information from the community, social characteristics of the community, the existence of witnesses, and difficulties in obtaining evidence. Based on this theory, the effectiveness of law enforcement is not only measured by the resolution of a case, but also by the ability of the authorities to overcome these obstacles through investigation strategies, increasing the capacity of human resources, optimizing facilities and technology, and increasing community participation in supporting the law enforcement process (Nur Aisya Fatma, Mulyati Pawennei, 2023).

METHODOLOGY

This research uses a type of normative legal research that is oriented towards the study of legal norms, principles, and principles that govern law enforcement against the crime of murder. Normative legal research is used to examine how the provisions of criminal law and criminal procedural law provide a basis for law enforcement officials in handling murder cases. The study is directed at the relationship between applicable legal norms and the concept of law enforcement, police authority, proof of criminal acts, and criminal responsibility of perpetrators. The approaches used include a statute *approach* to examine relevant legal provisions, a *conceptual approach* to understand the concept of law enforcement and legal effectiveness, and a *case approach* to examine legal considerations and patterns of handling murder criminal cases that are relevant to the object of research (Sonata, 2015).

The legal materials in this study consist of primary legal materials, secondary legal materials, and tertiary legal materials. Primary legal materials include laws and regulations related to the crime of murder, police authority, and procedures for handling criminal cases, while secondary legal materials are in the form of scientific journal articles, research results, legal doctrines, and expert opinions relevant to research problems. Tertiary legal materials are used as supporting materials to clarify legal terms and concepts used in the analysis. All legal materials are obtained through literature studies and analyzed qualitatively using juridical reasoning. The analysis is carried out by linking normative provisions with the concept of law enforcement and effectiveness in order to obtain arguments regarding the implementation of law enforcement against the crime of murder and identify factors that juridically can be obstacles in the process of handling it.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Law Enforcement in Handling Murder Crimes in the Jurisdiction of the South Tapanuli Police

Law enforcement against the crime of murder is in principle part of the state's efforts to provide protection for everyone's right to life while ensuring criminal accountability for the perpetrator. In the Indonesian criminal law system, murder is an act that attacks the interests of the law in the form of human life so that its handling requires a careful and measurable legal process. The South Tapanuli Police as part of the institution of the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia has the authority to conduct investigations and investigations into alleged murder crimes in accordance with the applicable legal provisions. Law enforcement in the case is not only oriented to finding the perpetrator, but must also be directed to the disclosure of the objective construction of the event based on valid evidence (Erick Darmansyah, 2025).

Normatively, the authority of the police in handling criminal cases rests on the provisions of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia and the provisions of the criminal procedure law. The police have the function to conduct investigations and investigations into a criminal act as part of the law enforcement process. In murder cases, this authority is important because the characteristics of criminal acts that are directly related to the loss of a person's life require systematic investigative action. Every action of the apparatus must have a legal basis and be carried out based on the principles of professionalism, proportionality, and respect for human rights.

The initial stage of handling a murder case begins with information, reports, or complaints regarding the alleged occurrence of a criminal act. This information is the basis for the police to conduct an investigation to determine whether an event is indeed a criminal act. In this stage, the authorities need to obtain an initial description of the time, place, victim, alleged cause of death, and the circumstances surrounding the occurrence of the event. If based on the results of the investigation there is a strong suspicion that a criminal act has occurred, the next process is directed to the investigation to find and collect evidence and shed light on the criminal act that occurred and find the suspect (Nurjannah Rahmadina W, 2026).

In handling a murder case, the crime scene has an important position in the evidentiary process. The examination of the crime scene allows investigators to obtain various information about the relationship between the victim, the perpetrator, the tools used, and the series of events that led to the death. Securing the location, documentation, examining evidence, identifying traces, and collecting information from parties who know the incident are important parts of the investigation process. Accuracy at this stage determines the quality of the construction of the case because every finding at the crime scene must be able to be related to other evidence logically and juridically.

Evidence in a murder case also requires the ability of the investigator to connect the facts found with the elements of the alleged crime. Witness statements, expert testimony, letters, clues, defendants' statements, and evidence must be analyzed thoroughly to obtain an overview of the criminal event. In this context, investigators do not only look for evidence that corroborates the suspicion against a person, but are also obliged to test every piece of information objectively. This principle is important to prevent mistakes in designating someone as a suspect and at the same time ensure that the law enforcement process remains within the corridor of due process of law (Bergmann, 2025).

Furthermore, the determination of suspect status must be based on the fulfillment of legal requirements regarding the adequacy of evidence. Investigators must be able to show the relationship between the person suspected of being the perpetrator and the act that resulted in the victim's death. The determination should not be based solely on allegations, confessions, or assumptions that have not received adequate evidence support. Therefore, the quality of the investigation is an important factor in determining whether the case can be continued to the prosecution stage with a strong legal construction.

From the perspective of law enforcement theory, the process shows that the success of handling murder crimes is not only determined by the existence of criminal norms, but also by the ability of the authorities to translate these norms into law enforcement actions. The South Tapanuli Police are required to carry out every stage of case handling professionally, starting from receiving reports to completing investigations. Good law enforcement must be able to bring together three interests at once, namely legal certainty, justice for victims and their families, and protection of the rights of people suspected of being perpetrators.

Thus, law enforcement against murder crimes in the jurisdiction of the South Tapanuli Police must normatively be placed as a series of interrelated processes between police authority, investigation, investigation, proof, and determination of criminal liability. The orientation of law enforcement is not just to produce suspects or resolve cases administratively, but to ensure that the material truth can be found through legitimate legal procedures. This framework is the basis for assessing whether the implementation of handling murder crimes has met the principles of effective, fair, professional law enforcement, and provides legal protection to all interested parties.

Obstacles and Efforts of the South Tapanuli Police in Law Enforcement against the Crime of Murder

Law enforcement against the crime of murder in practice is inseparable from various obstacles that can affect the process of disclosing cases. Although the law has given the authority to the police to conduct investigations and investigations, the success of handling cases still depends on the ability of the authorities to obtain information, secure evidence, and build relationships between the facts found and the elements of the criminal act. In the context of the South Tapanuli Police, law enforcement obstacles can be analyzed through legal factors, law enforcement officials, facilities and infrastructure, the community, and environmental conditions that affect the implementation of the investigation process (Sadida, 2024).

The first obstacle is related to the limitation of evidence and the difficulty of uncovering a series of criminal events. The crime of murder generally occurs behind closed doors and is not always witnessed directly by other parties. This condition can cause investigators to face difficulties in determining the chronology of the incident, the motive of the perpetrator, and the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. Evidence found at the crime scene is also not always in ideal condition because it can be damaged, moved, or even lost before the examination is carried out. Such a situation requires investigators to have the ability to integrate various forms of evidence so that the construction of the case is not only based on one source of evidence.

The next obstacle is related to witness testimony and community participation. In the investigation process, information from the community has an important role to help the police get an overview of criminal events. However, not all people have the courage or willingness to provide information, especially if there is a relationship between witnesses and victims or parties suspected of being perpetrators. Concerns about threats, social pressure, conflicts between groups, or other consequences can cause witnesses to be reluctant to provide information openly. This condition can slow down the investigation process and make it difficult for the authorities to obtain the information needed to uncover the case (Mulyani, Leni Widi, 2023).

Other obstacles can arise from geographical conditions and characteristics of the jurisdiction. Handling criminal cases requires the speed of the apparatus in visiting the scene of the incident, securing the scene of the case, examining witnesses, and collecting evidence. If the location of the incident is in an area that is difficult to reach, these conditions can affect the speed of response and the initial investigation process. From the perspective of legal effectiveness, geographical conditions are environmental factors that can affect the ability of the authorities to optimally implement legal norms. Therefore, law enforcement requires an operational strategy that is able to adapt the implementation of police duties to the characteristics of the area faced.

In addition to external factors, obstacles can also come from human resources and investigative facilities and infrastructure. Handling murder cases requires investigators who have the ability to examine witnesses, process crime scenes, analyze evidence, and coordinate with experts. The development of criminal technology also causes the investigation process to increasingly require

adequate equipment support, including identification technology, documentation, forensic examination, and digital information analysis if there is electronic evidence related to the case. Limitations in this aspect have the potential to affect the speed and quality of case disclosure (Kholilah Apriliani, Mada Apriandi Zuhir, 2025).

To overcome these obstacles, the South Tapanuli Police need to optimize the professionalism and capacity of investigators through continuous education and training. Improving competence is needed so that investigators are able to apply investigative methods that are in accordance with the characteristics of the crime of murder and are able to assess evidence objectively. In addition, coordination between investigators and experts, forensic laboratories, medical personnel, and related institutions needs to be strengthened to improve the quality of the evidentiary process. This cooperation is important, especially in cases that have complex characteristics or require scientific examination of evidence.

Another effort that can be made is to optimize technology in the investigation process and information management. The use of technology can help the police in documenting the crime scene, identifying objects and individuals, analyzing information, and managing data related to a case. The use of technology must still be carried out based on legal authority and pay attention to the protection of human rights. With the right technological support, the investigation process can become more systematic and help minimize the possibility of errors in building case construction.

In the community aspect, law enforcement efforts need to be accompanied by strengthening public participation and trust in the police. The police can build more effective communication with the community through legal counseling activities, approaches to community leaders, and easy and safe information delivery mechanisms. The public needs to be given an understanding of the importance of providing information related to criminal acts as well as ensuring that the information process is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the law. The better the relationship between the police and the public, the more likely it is to obtain information that can support the process of disclosing criminal acts.

Based on the theory of legal effectiveness, these various obstacles show that the success of law enforcement against the crime of murder is not enough to rely solely on the existence of laws and regulations. The effectiveness of law enforcement is also determined by the quality of the apparatus, the adequacy of facilities, community support, and the social and geographical conditions where the law is applied. Therefore, the efforts of the South Tapanuli Police need to be carried out in an integrated manner through increasing the capacity of investigators, optimizing facilities and technology, strengthening coordination between institutions, and increasing community participation.

Thus, obstacles in law enforcement against the crime of murder must be seen as a problem that requires a systematic approach, not just a solution at the technical level of the investigation. Efforts to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement must be directed at the creation of a fast, professional, objective, and

accountable investigation process. Through strengthening human resources, investigation facilities, technology, institutional coordination, and community participation, the South Tapanuli Police can improve their ability to uncover the crime of murder while realizing legal certainty and justice for victims and their families.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Law enforcement against murder crimes in the jurisdiction of the South Tapanuli Police is carried out through the stages of investigation, investigation, crime scene examination, evidence collection, identification of perpetrators, and case resolution in accordance with the provisions of criminal law and criminal procedure law. In its implementation, law enforcement still faces various obstacles, including limited evidence, difficulty obtaining witness statements, geographical conditions, limited human resources, and investigative facilities and infrastructure. These obstacles can affect the effectiveness of case disclosure, so it is necessary to strengthen investigator capacity, optimize technology and investigation facilities, improve coordination with related institutions, and strengthen community participation in supporting the law enforcement process.

The South Tapanuli Police need to improve the professionalism and competence of investigators through continuous training, strengthen the support of investigative facilities and technology, and improve coordination with experts and related institutions in the evidentiary process. In addition, the relationship and communication between the police and the community need to be strengthened through legal counseling and a participatory approach so that the public is more active in providing the information needed in the disclosure of criminal acts. These efforts are expected to minimize obstacles to investigations and realize effective law enforcement against the crime of murder that is effective, professional, transparent, and provides legal certainty and justice for victims and their families.

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