

Juridical review of the legal protection of notary employees as witness instrumenter in making deeds

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Abstract: A notary, as a public official authorized to draw up authentic deeds, requires the assistance of notary employees who also serve as instrumental witnesses in the deed-making process. Instrumental witnesses are responsible for witnessing the reading and signing of the deed, as regulated in Article 16 paragraph (1) letter i and Article 40 of the Law on Notary Position (UUJN). This study employs a normative juridical method with a descriptive-analytical approach, using secondary data obtained through literature review and document study. The findings show: first, the role of instrumental witnesses is crucial because if not fulfilled, the deed only holds evidentiary power as a private deed (Article 41 UUJN). Second, notary employees serving as instrumental witnesses bear criminal and civil liability for any misuse of deed confidentiality, and the obligation to maintain such confidentiality is lifelong. Third, although specific legal protection for notary employees as instrumental witnesses is not regulated in the UUJN, general protection is provided under the Manpower Law and the Witness and Victim Protection Law, especially regarding testimony in criminal proceedings, including protection from coercion, the right to legal counsel, and other general safeguards.

Keywords: Instrumental Witnesses; Legal Protection; Notary Employees.

1. Introduction

Notary is a public official who has the right to make authentic deeds as a perfect means of proof. Notaries have the duty to make deeds. In terms of making a deed, a notary must understand what the parties want and then put it in a deed whose procedures for making it have been determined by law (Eddy & Sudiro, 2022). Notary as a public official must be able to exercise his authority as stipulated in the provisions of Article 15 of Law Number 2 of 2014 Concerning the Amendment to Law Number 30 of 2004 Concerning the Position of Notary. Based on the above authorities, notaries also have obligations that must be carried out in relation to their profession. The obligations of a notary are also regulated in the provisions of Article 16 of the Notary Law (Saragih & Djaja, 2023).

In carrying out the authority and obligations mentioned above, a notary requires the assistance of labor, which in this case is a notary employee. The role and position of notary employees is quite large to assist the performance of notaries in serving deed-making services and their existence in assisting the performance of a notary's job plays an important role (Syahyu, 2022). Notary employees must not only be able to assist the performance of the notary in carrying out their position optimally, but also be able to witness the making of deeds required by law for the validity of a deed.

The role of notary employees as witnesses in the making of the deed is justified as long as it fulfills the requirements stipulated in the provisions of the Notary Law, hereinafter referred to as UUJN (Iriantoro, 2024). In its development, the obligations of notaries in the preparation and inauguration of deeds are not carried out alone by notaries, but are assisted by notary employees. The notary's obligation is stipulated in the Law that the deed must be prepared, read out and signed in the presence of at least 2 (two) witnesses

In the scope of notaries, two kinds of witnesses are known, namely the first is the identifying witness and the second is the deed witness or called the instrumental

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witness, which in this case is a notary employee (Panduwinata et al., 2022). Deed witnesses or Instrumenter are witnesses who must be present in the making of the deed, whose job is to witness the reading and sign the deed. The importance of the presence of this instrumentary witness is evidenced by Article 41 of the Notary Law which emphasizes that if the presence of an instrumenter witness is not fulfilled in the process of inaugurating a deed, then the deed only has evidentiary power as a deed under the hand (Essiva et al., 2021). The role of a notary employee as an instrumentary witness in the inauguration of a deed, then the person concerned has entered into legal traffic that has legal consequences, if a notarial deed in the future there is a problem or case, the notary employee will automatically be involved in the problem or case (I. Lubis et al., 2022).

One example of a case regarding the role of a notary employee as an implementer witness to a problematic deed in a decision is Case Number 773/Pid.B/2021/PN Smg jo Supreme Court cassation 1209 K/Pid/2022. Defendant II FEW who worked as an employee at the notary office of Defendant I MH in Semarang as a witness and participated in the act of making a false authentic deed or falsifying an authentic deed that could give rise to a right, obligation or release of debt, or intended as evidence of a matter with the intent to use or cause others to use the document as if the contents are true and not forged, which may cause loss, who committed, who ordered to commit, and who participated in the act violated Article 264 paragraph (1) in conjunction with Article 55 paragraph (1) to 1 of the Criminal Code (Budianto et al., 2020).

Based on the above explanation, the legal protection of notary employees as instrumental witnesses is the right of every employee and the obligations of notaries as superiors are guaranteed by the government and regulated by law. Therefore, to create an instrumental witness as an employee who is often examined by investigators in a case of the parties to the dispute, there must be legal efforts from the notary to protect and defend the rights of notary employees, with the aim of obtaining a balanced, objective examination from the other party (Kusumawardhani, 2023).

2. Materials and Methods

The nature of this research is descriptive analysis. Descriptive analytical research is research that describes, examines, explains and analyzes a legal regulation (Hamzani et al., 2023). Descriptive research aims to describe precisely the characteristics of individuals, circumstances, symptoms or certain groups, or to determine the frequency or distribution of a symptom or the frequency of a certain relationship between symptoms and other symptoms in society. This type of research is normative legal research. Normative legal research is a type of research conducted based on primary legal materials by examining theories, concepts, legal principles and legislation related to this research (Bogucki, 2024).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 *Legal Position of Notary Employee as an Instrumenter Witness in Making Notarial Deed According to Uujn*

Notaries in carrying out their official duties are obliged to be guided normatively to the rules of law relating to all actions to be taken and then stated in the deed. Acting based on the applicable legal rules will provide certainty to the parties, that the deed made before or by the Notary is in accordance with the applicable legal rules, so that if a problem occurs, the Notary's deed can be used as a guide by the parties. Therefore, the position of Notary in society is still very much respected (Yusrizal et al., 2022). The community needs someone (figure) whose information is reliable, trustworthy, whose signature and seal (stamp) provide assurance and strong evidence, an impartial expert and advisor who has no defects (onkreukbaar or unimpeachable), who keeps his mouth shut and makes an agreement that can protect him in the days to come (Styawati et al., 2023).

Based on Article 15 paragraph (1) of the UUJN which stipulates as follows that Notaries are authorized to make authentic deeds regarding all acts, agreements, and statutory determinations and / or those desired by those concerned to be stated in an authentic deed. (Aisyiah & Wisnuwardhani, 2022) Based on these provisions, a Notary is always

needed by the public in general, especially for people who have good legal awareness about the need for legal certainty in every legal action they take, by pouring in an authentic evidence, namely a Notary deed (Misty, 2024). This creates public trust in the Notary because of the deed he made, which causes the position of Notary is often also called the position of trust, namely the trust of the government as an agency that appoints and dismisses Notaries as well as the trust of the public as users of notary services. The position of a witness to a Notarial deed is certainly different from the position of a witness in general who is a witness who hears and/or sees an event that occurs.

Witness is someone who testifies by explaining what he saw and heard (waarne-men) (Zaki & Saidin, 2024). Notary deed witnesses are witnesses who participate in the making of the deed or Instrumenter, therefore, Notary deed witnesses are referred to as Instrumenter witnesses (instrumentaire getuigen) by affixing their signatures, they testify to the truth of the existence of the deed and the fulfillment of the formalities required by the Notary Office Law, hereinafter referred to as UUJN. Legal protection for instrumental witnesses in providing testimony related to the confidentiality of notarial deeds in criminal justice, the notary employee cannot be held accountable for the contents of the notarial deed, because the responsibility of the notary employee is only limited to preparing the deed that he is responsible for to the notary (Mazza, 2024). This is different if the notary employee provides testimony at the trial in his position as an instrumental witness, then the notary employee is personally or personally responsible for what he has witnessed, namely related to whether the notary has fulfilled the formalities for the inauguration of the deed or *verlijden* as ordered by the UUJN (I. F. Lubis & Hoesin, 2023).

Based on the explanation above, the instrument witness must really see that at the end of the closing section of the deed a stamp has been affixed which is an important part of the deed inauguration process, and also see that one of the faces or parties affixes a signature, so that the signing process becomes valid and the deed can become an authentic deed (Arkani et al., 2024).

3.2. *The Responsibility of Notary Employees as Instrumental Witnesses in the Confidentiality of Notarial Deed Contents*

The existence of officials in a governmental order is very necessary, because officials are one of the implementation instruments of the existence of a state. The state in an organizational structure in carrying out its functions is represented by the government. The government in carrying out its functions and duties in realizing the goals of the state is represented by officials. therefore, the success or failure of a state agency is determined by the ability of its officials to run the government's business. Through the deeds they make, notaries must be able to provide legal certainty to the people who use notary services (Ferguson, 2022). A notarial deed is an authentic deed that has legal force and guarantees legal certainty as evidence. A notarial deed is an authentic deed that has legal force with legal certainty guarantees as a perfect written evidence (*volledig bewijs*), does not require additional other evidentiary tools, and judges are bound by it.

The obligation for the notary to keep the contents of the deed confidential and all the information obtained in the making of the deed aims to protect the interests of the parties related to the deed (Styawati et al., 2023). Keeping the content of the deed confidential is also one of the obligations of the notary which is regulated in Article 16 paragraph (1) letter e of UUJN. In practice, many notaries make their employees as instrumenter witnesses, if they meet the requirements set forth by law, as per Article 40 of the UUJN. It is these notarial employees who prepare everything that is needed in terms of making a deed. Starting from the preparation of the signing of the deed, namely asking for the *dokumen-dokumen* needed as well as checking whether it is in accordance with the parties who are interested in the deed. Up to witnessing the execution of the deed, namely the reading and signing of the deed in front of the notaris, as well as up to the delivery of copies of the deed to the interested parties is one of the duties of the notarial officers.

This responsibility is related to the confidentiality of the deed which should be maintained (Shahid et al., 2022). If this is violated, it can cause the parties to feel aggrieved and subsequently it can become a delict or an act that must be held accountable. Based on the above explanation in the problems arising from the violation of the instrumenter witness who membocorrkan the confidentiality of the deed which is done personally ole by the instrumenter witness will cause legal consequences personally. An instrumenter witness who membocorrizes the contents of a notarial deed that causes harm to one or the parties, whether it can be subjected to a legal responsibility and what is the form of responsibility. Legal responsibility is divided into, among others, civil legal responsibility, criminal legal responsibility, administrative responsibility, and administrative responsibility.

3.3. *Legal Protection of Notary Employees Acting as Instrumenter Witnesses in Deeds According to National Law*

The legal protection of notary employees who act as instrumental witnesses in notarial deeds has not been specifically regulated in Law Number 2 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 30 of 2004 concerning Notary Offices. Because the Notary Position Law is attached to notaries as public officials. However, in general, Law Number 13 of 2003 concerning Labor and Law Number 31 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 13 of 2006 concerning Witness and Victim Protection have provided legal protection for witnesses, including instrumental witnesses. Especially protection in providing testimony in trials related to criminal cases, such as protection to provide testimony without pressure, the right to receive legal advice, the right to security and health protection, and other general matters (Aisyiah & Wisnuwardhani, 2022).

According to Law Number 13 of 2003 concerning Manpower Article 1 paragraph (15) of Law Number 13 of 2003 concerning Manpower states that employment relations are: "The legal relationship that arises between workers and employers based on a work agreement which has the characteristics of wages, orders, and work". Juridically based on Article 27 of the 45th Constitution, the position of workers is the same as employers, but socially and economically the position of the two is not the same. This unequal socio-economic position has led to a tendency for employers to act more dominantly in determining the contents of agreements by prioritizing their interests compared to the interests of workers To prevent things like this, government intervention is needed to provide protection law (I. F. Lubis & Hoesin, 2023).

The notary employee as an instrumentary witness included in the Notarial deed is an instrumentary witness or deed witness, having the job of witnesses who are present at the time of making the deed, affixing their signatures, testifying to the truth of the execution and fulfillment of the formalities required by law, which are mentioned in the deed and which are witnessed by the witnesses. In other words, it is the instrumentary witness or deed witness who witnesses whether the deed in its inauguration, namely whether it has been prepared, read out and signed, has been carried out correctly by the Notary. According to Law Number 31 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 13 of 2006 concerning Witness and Victim Protection. Legal protection for Notary Employees who act as instrumental witnesses can only be found in provisions outside of Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 2 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 30 of 2004 concerning Notary Offices, namely Law Number 31 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 13 of 2006 concerning Witness and Victim Protection (Tan et al., 2023).

The rights as above are exercised outside the court and in the judicial process if the person concerned becomes a witness. When examined in paragraph 2 of Article 5 of Law Number 31 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 13 of 2006 concerning Witness and Victim Protection, it turns out that the rights referred to in Article 5 paragraph 1 of Law Number 31 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 13 of 2006 concerning Witness and Victim Protection are given for/in certain cases in accordance with the decision of the Witness and Victim Protection Agency. Thus, the

granting of these rights is selective and procedural through the Witness and Victim Protection Agency (Saputro et al., 2021). Witnesses and / or victims who feel they are under great threat, their testimony is read before the court and can even provide written testimony and teleconference. Based on Article 9 of Law No. 13/2006 on Witness and Victim Protection, instrumental witnesses or deed witnesses receive protection from Law No. 31/2014 on Amendments to Law No. 13/2006 on Witness and Victim Protection and Law No. 31/2014 on Amendments to Law No. 13/2006 on Witness and Victim Protection assigns its duties and authority regarding witness and victim protection to the Witness and Victim Protection Agency (Parashteo, 2024).

Preventive legal protection aims to prevent disputes from occurring (Amsler et al., 2020). Preventive legal protection is very meaningful for government actions to be encouraged to be careful in making decisions. (Hidaya, 2023) The Witness and Victim Protection Agency is an independent institution domiciled in the capital city of the Republic of Indonesia and has representatives in each region as needed. Based on this, it can be understood that if those whose names are in the deed because they do not want to carry out the contents of the deed or there are parties who are harmed, it is not by dragging the Notary and the instrumentary witnesses or deed witnesses to the police or investigators. But the deed is the basis, because there will be inconsistencies in evidence, when the Notary and the instrumentary witnesses or deed witnesses are still alive, the Notary and instrumentary witnesses or deed witnesses will be questioned, but if the Notary and instrumentary witnesses or deed witnesses have died, it is no longer possible to be questioned (Supriyanto, 2020).

Therefore, the focus is on the deed, not on the notary and the instrumentary witness or deed witness. So it is not in accordance or contrary to the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 2 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 30 of 2004 concerning the Position of Notary if investigators, judges, prosecutors call instrumentary witnesses or deed witnesses, because instrumentary witnesses or deed witnesses are an integral part of the formalities of Notary deeds as authentic deeds. There is no need for investigators to take other legal actions, by calling the instrumentary witness or deed witness to be asked for information, from which the information of the instrumentary witness or deed witness will be confronted with the notary or vice versa, the instrumentary witness or deed witness is called first, then the Notary is called and later confronted with the information of the instrumentary witness or deed witness. Whatever method is used is not in accordance with Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 2 of 2014 Concerning the Amendment to Law Number 30 of 2004 Regarding the Position of Notary and Indonesian notarial law (Dubberley et al., 2020).

One example of a case regarding the role of a notary employee as an implementer witness to a problematic deed in a decision is Case Number 773/Pid.B/2021/PN Smg jo Supreme Court cassation 1209 K/Pid/2022. Defendant II FEW who works as an employee at the notary office of Defendant I MH in Semarang as a witness and participant in the act of making a false authentic deed or falsifying an authentic deed that can give rise to a right, obligation or release of debt, or intended as evidence of a matter with the intention of using or causing others to use the document as if the contents are true and not forged, which may cause loss, who committed, who ordered to commit, and who participated in the act violated Article 264 paragraph (1) in conjunction with Article 55 paragraph (1) to 1 of the Criminal Code. (Law on Notary Position, 2016). The witnesses must be known by the Notary or their identity or authority declared to the Notary by one or more of the confronters. Except in matters where the Civil Code requires a special position to be mentioned separately regarding witnesses, all persons who according to the provisions in the Civil Code are capable of giving testimony under oath before the court, understand the language of the deed and can write their signature in the deed are allowed as witnesses (Aksamitowska, 2021).

4. Conclusions

The conclusion obtained from this research: The legal position of notary employees as instrumental witnesses in the making of notarial deeds according to the UUJN is very important, which is regulated in Article 16 paragraph 1 letter I and Article 40 of the UUJN so that if these deed witnesses are not fulfilled, then based on Article 41 of the UUJN, the deed only has evidentiary power as a deed under the hand because the instrumenter witnesses put their signatures at the end of the deed which is a sign that they testify to the truth that has been done and the fulfillment of the formalities when making the deed. Instrumental witnesses in carrying out their duties cannot be applied Article 322 of the Criminal Code which regulates the crime of disclosing official secrets because their capacity as witnesses does not involve professional positions. Instrumental witnesses who do not maintain the confidentiality of notarial documents are classified as unlawful acts in accordance with Article 322 of the Criminal Code. The legal responsibility of a notary employee as an instrumental witness in the confidentiality of the contents of a notarial deed can be criminally and civilly liable due to abuse of confidentiality, The obligation of notaries and notary employees to keep the contents of the deed or information required in making authentic deeds confidential is inherent for life. Even though he no longer works in the notary's office or as a former Notary Employee. the obligation to keep the deed secret by notaries and notary employees who are Instrumenter witnesses is a legal obligation that has legal implications if violated because the instrumenter witness has witnessed and signed the deed. The legal protection of notary employees who act as instrumental witnesses in notarial deeds has not been specifically regulated in Law Number 2 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 30 of 2004 concerning Notary Offices. Because the Notary Position Law is attached to notaries as public officials. However, in general, Law No. 13/2003 on Manpower and Law No. 31/2014 on the Amendment to Law No. 13/2006 on Witness and Victim Protection have provided legal protection for witnesses, including instrumental witnesses. Especially protection in providing testimony in trials related to criminal cases, such as protection to provide testimony without pressure, the right to receive legal advice, the right to security and health protection, and other general matters.

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