



## ***Visum Et Repertum* as evidence in the handling of crimes (A study at Bhayangkara Hospital Level III Banda Aceh)**

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### **Abstract**

Judicial practice reveals instances where the autopsy report is disregarded, its validity challenged, or its evidentiary significance undermined due to procedural factors, including compliance with examination request regulations, the qualifications of the personnel conducting the examination, the completeness of administrative records, and the presence of chain of custody protocols for the samples. *Visum Et Repertum* operates concurrently in two domains: in medicine for the management and rehabilitation of victims, and in law as a kind of evidence for justice. This study seeks to elucidate *Visum Et Repertum* as evidence in the management of crime. This research constitutes an empirical juridical legal study that investigates law as it manifests in societal behaviour (law in action), rather than solely as codified rules (law in books). The research findings indicate that *Visum Et Repertum* constitutes documentary evidence as stipulated in Article 184 paragraph (1) letter c of the Criminal Procedure Code (and elaborated in Article 235 paragraph (1) of Law No. 20 of 2025), which plays a crucial role in substantiating the crime of assault due to its inclusion of objective medical findings, such as injuries.

**Keywords:** *Visum Et Repertum*, evidence, criminal offense

### **Introduction**

The role of forensic medical examinations and valid medical documents, especially *Visum Et Repertum*, becomes crucial as evidence that can bridge the victim's testimony and material evidence in court. Judicial practice shows cases where the autopsy report is ignored, its validity questioned, or its evidentiary value diminished due to procedural aspects such as whether the examination request was made according to regulations, whether the examination was conducted by competent personnel, whether the administrative records were complete, and whether there were chain of custody provisions for the samples. Critically, the *Visum Et Repertum* functions in two realms simultaneously: in the medical field as a means of handling and recovering victims, and in the legal field as a piece of evidence pro justitia.

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Bhayangkara Hospital (hereinafter referred to as Bhayangkara Hospital Level III Banda Aceh) as a police referral hospital has a strategic role in the preparation of *Visum Et Repertum* for judicial purposes. However, in practice, obstacles are often encountered, such as limited forensic personnel, delays in visum requests, and technical obstacles in examination.<sup>[1]</sup>

### **Research Method**

This research is an empirical juridical legal study, which examines law as actual behavior in society (law in action), not merely as written norms (law in books).<sup>[2]</sup> The data sources for this research are based on primary data obtained thru interviews<sup>[3]</sup> and secondary data in the form of legal regulations, legal books, scientific journals, theses, and official documents related to *Visum Et Repertum*, and criminal evidence.<sup>[4]</sup> Data analysis is conducted qualitatively, which involves processing and interpreting the data systematically and logically.

### **Results and Discussions**

*Visum Et Repertum* is a written statement resulting from a medical examination of the human body by a physician, conducted upon the request of an investigator for the purposes of judicial proceedings. Such examination may only be performed by a physician possessing the requisite competence and having taken an official oath, in accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP). In practice, *Visum Et Repertum* contains essential information regarding wounds or injuries sustained by the victim, functioning as written documentary evidence before the court, as stipulated under Article 184 of the KUHAP.

As a legally admissible form of evidence, *Visum Et Repertum* carries determinative evidentiary weight in the substantiation of criminal offenses, particularly those involving the human body, such as assault. The examination process is initiated upon an official request from the investigator in the form of a Visum Request Letter (Surat Permintaan Visum/SPV). Such report must satisfy both administrative and substantive requirements in accordance with applicable medical and legal procedures in order to be legally accountable before the law. Accordingly, accuracy and professionalism in the preparation of *Visum Et*

*Repertum* constitute essential aspects in upholding the rule of law.

Child abuse represents one form of criminal offense that gives rise to serious consequences, both physically, psychologically, and socially. This phenomenon becomes increasingly alarming when the perpetrator originates from the victim's immediate environment, including the victim's own parents. Law Number 35 of 2014, as an amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, explicitly prohibits the abuse of children and provides a legal basis for law enforcement authorities to prosecute perpetrators. Therefore, *Visum Et Repertum* serves as an essential instrument in the evidentiary process for the purpose of legally holding perpetrators of assault.

Nevertheless, the implementation of *Visum Et Repertum* in practice does not always proceed effectively. Various impediments, such as delays by investigators in issuing the SPV, limited availability of specialist physicians, inadequate medical facilities, as well as social and cultural constraints within the community, present distinct challenges to law enforcement. This underscores the necessity for synergy among law enforcement authorities, health institutions, and the community in supporting the visum process.

In the context of child protection, the state is obligated to provide comprehensive legal guarantees and healthcare services. Article 89 of Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System stipulates that children who are victims of acts of assault are entitled to legal protection. However, at the level of implementation, victims are frequently still required to bear the costs of visum examinations independently and do not receive adequate legal or psychosocial assistance. This situation necessitates an evaluation of the effectiveness of *Visum Et Repertum* as an instrument of evidence and protection for child victims.

*Visum Et Repertum* constitutes a critically important written evidentiary document in the substantiation of criminal offenses of child abuse. This document contains a report of the results of a medical examination of the victim's body conducted by a forensic physician pursuant to a Visum Request Letter (SPV) issued by the investigator. In practice, visum examinations may only be conducted by a specialist physician who has taken an official oath, and the results are systematically compiled for the purposes of judicial proceedings.

The conduct of visum examinations at hospitals such as Bhayangkara Hospital Level III Banda Aceh has adhered to these procedures, thereby rendering them legally valid. The process of conducting *Visum Et Repertum* commences with the reporting of the criminal offense by the victim or family to the police. Subsequently, the investigator issues an SPV, which serves as the legal basis for the hospital or physician to conduct a physical and psychological examination of the victim. The findings of such examination shall be recorded in detail and set forth in the *Visum Et Repertum* report, which may only be submitted to the relevant investigator.

This is intended to preserve the confidentiality of the document in the interest of judicial proceedings. The *Visum Et Repertum* document possesses a standardized structure comprising the letterhead, the identity of the victim and examining physician, the time of examination, observational findings, and medical conclusions. In cases of child abuse, the findings of the visum typically indicate the presence of external wounds, trauma, or other injuries evidencing physical assault. Consequently, the existence of a visum is

of paramount importance in persuading the presiding judge in the course of criminal evidentiary proceedings.

In the law enforcement process, *Visum Et Repertum* does not solely function as documentary evidence, but also provides objective medical information that is not susceptible to subjective opinion. An accurate visum shall assist law enforcement officers, public prosecutors, and judges in assessing the severity of the perpetrator's conduct and in determining the appropriate provisions for the purposes of indictment and prosecution. Visum examinations do not exclusively encompass physical aspects, but may also extend to the psychological condition of the victim, particularly in cases of assault that have resulted in psychological trauma. Therefore, collaboration with a forensic psychiatrist or psychologist is indispensable in order to provide a comprehensive analysis of the victim's condition.

The Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (hereinafter referred to as UPTD PPA) in Banda Aceh City recorded 157 cases of assault against children in 2023, 100 cases in 2024, and 99 cases in 2025.<sup>[5]</sup>

**Table 1:** The Number of Assault Cases in Banda Aceh City

No	Years	Total of cases
1	2023	157
2	2024	100
3	2025	99

**Source:** Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection of Aceh Province

Based on the recorded case data, it is evident that the number of cases has gradually decreased from 2023 to 2025. In 2023, there were 157 cases recorded, which then significantly decreased to 100 cases in 2024, and further decreased to 99 cases in 2025.

**Table 2:** The Number of Assault Cases at the Aceh Police Headquarters

No	Years	Total of cases
1	2023	12
2	2024	7
3	2025	8

**Source:** Aceh Police Headquarters

The number of reported assault cases handled by the Aceh Police from 2023 to 2025 is 26 cases, and those handled by the PPA Unit of the Aceh Police from 2023 to 2025 are 38 cases.<sup>[6]</sup>

**Table 3:** The Number of Assault Cases at Polresta Banda Aceh

No	Years	Total of cases
1	2023	15
2	2024	16
3	2025	7

**Source:** Banda Aceh Police Headquarters

The data in the table above can be explained for the cases of assault in Banda Aceh City that have been handled and resolved by the PPA Unit of Banda Aceh Police and the PPA of Aceh Police, which amount to 64 cases. The science of law plays a central role in upholding justice for the victims, imposing appropriate penalties on the perpetrators, and preventing similar crimes in the future. Thus, in proving

the occurrence of a criminal offense, the judge needs at least two initial pieces of evidence to examine a defendant who is accused of committing a criminal act.

The process of proving in assault cases, evidence plays a very important role in uncovering the occurrence of the crime and determining the criminal liability of the perpetrator. One of the pieces of evidence often used in assault cases is *Visum Et Repertum*. *Visum Et Repertum* is a written statement made by a doctor based on the results of a medical examination of the victim for the purposes of the judicial process. The existence of a visum is very important because assault cases generally occur without any witnesses who see it directly, so the proof heavily relies on the victim's testimony and the results of the medical examination. *Visum Et Repertum* has an important function in proving the existence of assault, injuries, or signs of intercourse experienced by the victim. In cases of assault, a forensic examination also plays a role in strengthening the judge's conviction in delivering a verdict against the perpetrator.

In the Criminal Procedure Code (hereinafter referred to as KUHAP), *Visum Et Repertum* is not specifically mentioned, but since *Visum Et Repertum* is one of the documentary evidence as regulated in Article 184 paragraph (1) letter c of KUHAP. The text of Article 184 paragraph (1) letter c of KUHAP (Law No. 8 of 1981 on Criminal Procedure) states that valid evidence includes witness testimony; expert testimony; documents; indications; and the defendant's statement. According to Article 184, paragraph (1), letter c of KUHAP, one of the legally recognized pieces of evidence in the criminal trial process is a document. From the perspective of criminal procedural law, a letter is not only understood as a written document, but also includes various forms of official documents that have evidentiary value. The existence of documentary evidence plays an important role in supporting the proof of a criminal act because it can provide written information that is objective and legally accountable in the criminal justice process. In cases of assault, documentary evidence as regulated in Article 184 paragraph (1) letter c of the KUHAP plays a very important role, especially in the form of *Visum Et Repertum*.

Further provisions regarding documentary evidence in Article 187 of the Criminal Procedure Code emphasize that documents can include expert testimony written down, including medical reports made by forensic doctors based on examinations of the victim. In the context of proving a case of assault, a *Visum Et Repertum* serves as a scientific piece of evidence that explains the condition of the victim, such as the presence of wounds, signs of assault. This document is prepared by medical personnel with expertise in the field of forensics, thus possessing strong and objective evidentiary value in court. The existence of *Visum Et Repertum* also helps strengthen the judge's conviction, especially when the criminal event is not directly witnessed by others. It is made based on Article 133, which states that "if an investigator, for the sake of justice, handles a victim who is injured, poisoned, or deceased, suspected to be due to an event that constitutes a criminal act, he is authorized to request expert testimony from a forensic medical expert or a doctor and/or other experts."

One of the evidentiary instruments required to prove the occurrence of assault is obtaining expert testimony contained in a document called *Visum Et Repertum* (VeR). In the development of Indonesian criminal procedural law,

the regulation regarding evidence has been updated through Law Number 20 of 2025 concerning the Criminal Procedure Code. Article 235 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code stipulates that valid evidence includes witness testimony, expert testimony, documents, the defendant's statement, physical evidence, electronic evidence, judicial observations, and anything that can be used for proof as long as it is obtained lawfully. The expansion of the types of evidence indicates the lawmakers' efforts to adapt the evidentiary system to the increasingly complex needs of law enforcement. In addition, *Visum Et Repertum* often serves as evidence that strengthens the testimony of witnesses and victims, thereby forming a series of interrelated proofs. Thus, in cases of assault, documentary evidence in the form of a *Visum Et Repertum* not only serves as an administrative document but also as an important instrument in uncovering material truth and supporting the fulfillment of the principle of proof in the criminal justice system in Indonesia.

The crime of assault, *Visum Et Repertum*, can contain findings related to physical evidence such as bloodstains, or other traces of physical assault, as well as recommendations for further examinations, such as DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) laboratory tests.<sup>[7]</sup> Although *Visum Et Repertum* is an official document issued by experts, it is still possible that there may be discrepancies between what actually happened and what is believed to have happened. From the perspective of evidence, *Visum Et Repertum* is often regarded as one of the important pieces of evidence with high probative value if it is made formally, objectively, and signed by a competent expert doctor or forensic doctor. However, a visum is not "absolute evidence" that automatically determines the verdict; the judge still evaluates all pieces of evidence, such as witness testimonies, the defendant's statements, other documentary evidence, and circumstantial evidence in the pursuit of material truth.

Failure to ensure the quality of forensic medical examinations, such as reactive examinations, insensitivity to the victim's trauma, or not following forensic protocols, can undermine the possibility of proving a court case, even if physical evidence initially exists. Therefore, the completeness of the forensic examination procedure, including an official request letter from the investigator, informed consent (according to age and guardian), the use of trained forensic personnel, complete documentation, and sample archiving if necessary, is fundamental to maintaining the probative validity of the forensic examination. Bhayangkara Hospital, as a police referral hospital, plays a strategic role in the preparation of *Visum Et Repertum* for judicial purposes.<sup>[8]</sup>

The implementation of *Visum Et Repertum* in the field frequently encounters various obstacles that impede its effectiveness as a form of evidence. One of the primary impediments is the delay on the part of the victim or their family in reporting the act of assault to the competent authorities. As a consequence, wounds that constitute physical evidence of assault begin to heal and become difficult to document forensically. This situation diminishes the evidentiary value of the visum itself.

In addition to delayed reporting, the low level of public awareness regarding the importance of *Visum Et Repertum* also presents a distinct challenge. Many parents or guardians of victims are unaware that *Visum Et Repertum* constitutes a mandatory procedure for completing the evidentiary

requirements of a criminal offense. Furthermore, there are those who are reluctant to file a report due to the fact that the perpetrator is a member of their own family. Such cultural and emotional barriers serve to complicate the legal process.

From the perspective of law enforcement authorities, inhibiting factors arise in the form of insufficient prompt response from investigators in issuing the Visum Request Letter (SPV). In the absence of such letter, the hospital or physician is not authorized to conduct the visum examination. Several cases have revealed the existence of procedural delays that have resulted in the loss of the evidentiary momentum, particularly in cases involving minor injuries that heal rapidly.

### **Conclusion**

To sum up, *Visum Et Repertum* is a documentary evidence as delineated in Article 184 paragraph (1) letter c of the Criminal Procedure Code (and elaborated in Article 235 paragraph (1) of Law No. 20 of 2025), which plays a crucial role in substantiating the crime of assault due to its inclusion of objective medical findings, such as injuries, signs of assault. The prevalence of assault cases in Banda Aceh remains significantly high, making the function of RS Bhayangkara Tk III Banda Aceh in conducting forensic examinations crucial for reinforcing the judge's conviction. Nevertheless, the probative value of a forensic examination is maximised only when conducted formally, objectively, and in accordance with forensic protocols (including an official request letter, informed consent, trained forensic personnel, and comprehensive documentation), as a forensic examination does not constitute absolute evidence but must be evaluated alongside other evidence to reveal the material truth and ensure effective legal protection for victims of assault.

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