

Implementation of Criminal Profiling as a Supporting Tool for Investigators of Children as Perpetrators of Violent Crimes

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Abstract

Children committing violent crimes has been rampant in Indonesia in recent months. The emergence of klitih, a phenomenon where teenagers commit crimes on the streets, has occurred in several regions of Indonesia, such as Yogyakarta and Semarang, as well as several other areas. Law enforcement for children and adults is very different; children must receive humane, comprehensive treatment that prioritizes their interests. Investigators as law enforcers must understand the social, psychological, and environmental conditions of children who commit violent crimes. The law is constantly evolving with the times, one example being criminal profiling, which aims to analyze the behavior patterns, mental conditions, social conditions, and characteristics of criminals. The practice of law enforcement using criminal profiling methods can help investigators



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understand the mental and social conditions of children and the characteristics that underlie their behavior as perpetrators of crime.

KEYWORDS

Criminal Profiling, Children as Perpetrators, Violent Crimes, Investigators

Introduction

The world continues to evolve every day, and this rapid development requires the law to be flexible in order to keep up with the times. Dynamic changes in society, technology, and patterns of social interaction demand that the legal system constantly adapt in order to remain relevant, effective, and capable of providing protection and legal certainty for the community. In addition, the law must also be able to develop flexibly to adapt to crimes that are also constantly evolving. In fact, crime always precedes the law itself, making the renewal of law enforcement approaches an inevitable necessity. Crimes are not only committed by adults but also by children or adolescents due to psychological, environmental, family, friendship, and social media factors, which often influence and shape children's behavior, ultimately leading to unlawful acts.¹ Children who commit crimes must be treated differently from adults because their mental and emotional conditions and level of maturity are not yet fully developed like adults, so the approach used must consider aspects of protection, guidance, and the best interests of the child. This special treatment can use criminal profiling techniques, which are one of the investigative techniques aimed at describing the characteristics of the perpetrator, their psychological condition, motives, and demographic conditions, so that law enforcement officials can obtain a more comprehensive initial picture of the characteristics of individuals suspected of committing crimes and determine the most appropriate and proportional method of treatment.

¹ Adya Aditi Samal, *Minds In The Shadows -A Study of Criminal Profiling of Juvenile Offenders In The Indian Context through Cross-Cultural Analysis*, *International Conference on Forensic JusticeAt: National Forensic Sciences*, vol. 4, 2023.

The phenomenon of children as perpetrators of crime is very worrying. According to data from the public correctional database of the Directorate General of Corrections on July 3, 2025, there were 2,018 children in conflict with the law for cases of violence, gang fights, brawls, theft, and other criminal acts. This data shows that the involvement of children in criminal acts is not an incidental issue, but rather a phenomenon that requires serious attention from various parties due to its significant number and the diverse types of crimes involved. Among the 2,018 cases, there were several repeat offenders, either for different crimes or the same crime, which indicates the possibility of underlying factors such as social environment, parenting patterns, or psychological conditions that have not been optimally addressed. This *criminal profiling* technique is usually used for adults, but it can be applied to cases involving children as perpetrators of crime, as this method allows investigators to understand the characteristics, background, and behavioral tendencies of children in greater depth.² Thus, the application of this technique is expected to help make the process of handling children's cases more targeted, not only in uncovering criminal events but also in formulating an approach that is appropriate to the conditions and needs of the child.

In reality, in the law enforcement process, children as perpetrators of crime are treated the same as adults as perpetrators of crime, so that the approach used often does not take into account the psychological condition, level of emotional maturity, and special protection needs that should be inherent in children. It is also not uncommon for children as perpetrators of crimes to be tortured during interrogation to force them to confess to the crimes they are accused of, a practice that clearly has the potential to violate human rights and the principle of due process of law. One such case is that

² Dewi Purnama Sari et al., "The Use of Criminal Profiling in Determining Typology of Conventional Offender and Cyber Offender: Systematic Literature Review Penggunaan Criminal Profiling Dalam Menentukan Typology Penjahat Konvensional Dan Penjahat Siber: Systematic Literature Review," *Jurnal Psikologi Tabularasa* 19, no. 1 (2024): 1–17, <https://jurnal.unmer.ac.id/index.php/jpt/index>.

of Pegi alias Perong (the suspect in the murder of Vina Cirebon), which attracted public attention because it sparked debate about the procedures for handling suspects and allegations of violence during the investigation process. According to data from the National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM) complaints for the period 2020-June 24, 2024, there were 282 reported cases of violence by law enforcement officials, a figure that shows that this issue is not an isolated case but part of a broader phenomenon in law enforcement practices. This is not in accordance with the Child Criminal Justice System Law, which adheres to the principles of child protection and guidance as the main objectives of law enforcement. Therefore, every investigation process involving children should focus on a humanistic, educational, and rehabilitation-oriented approach, rather than pressure or coercion.³ This situation highlights the importance of improving the system and enhancing the professionalism of officials so that the handling of children as perpetrators of crimes is truly in line with the principles of justice, child rights protection, and applicable legal standards.⁴

Criminal profiling is an appropriate technique to be applied as a supporting instrument in cases involving child offenders in order to understand the child's mental condition, motives, demographic conditions, and approach to the child so that the case can be resolved in accordance with the child's emotional and mental condition without the need for coercion, let alone violence, in the investigation process.⁵ This approach allows law enforcement officials to obtain a more comprehensive picture of the child's background and psychological dynamics, so that the examination and

³ Aldy Widhana, Hudi Yusuf, and Article Info, "Analisis Forensik Terkait Kasus Mutilasi Dan Pembunuhan Berantai 3 Wanita Di Padang Pariaman," *Jicn* 2, no. 3 (2025): 3760–69, <https://jicnusantara.com/index.php/jicn>.

⁴ Rita Alexandra Brilha Ribeiro and Cristina Branca Bento de Matos Soeiro, "Analysing Criminal Profiling Validity: Underlying Problems and Future Directions," *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry* 74, no. December 2020 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijlp.2020.101670>.

⁵ Sari et al., "The Use of Criminal Profiling in Determining Typology of Conventional Offender and Cyber Offender: Systematic Literature Review Penggunaan Criminal Profiling Dalam Menentukan Typology Penjahat Konvensional Dan Penjahat Siber: Systematic Literature Review."

investigation process can be carried out using methods that are more humane, communicative, and in accordance with the principles of child protection. In addition, the approach through *criminal profiling* techniques can help law enforcement officials make legal decisions that are more proportional, educational, and in accordance with the needs and conditions of the child with the aim of preventing the child from repeating the crime (recidivism).⁶ With a deeper understanding of the characteristics of children as perpetrators, case handling does not only focus on punishment, but also on guidance, rehabilitation, and social reintegration, so that the goal of the juvenile justice system to shape better behavior in the future can be optimally achieved.⁷

Methods

This study uses a qualitative approach because it focuses on understanding and exploring the role of criminal profiling as a tool to support investigators in cases involving children as perpetrators of violent crimes. This approach is used because this study discusses issues that occur in the community, addressing social issues that are currently occurring in society, not only from a legal perspective but also from other aspects such as psychology, behavioral dimensions, children's social lives, and others.

This research is empirical legal research because it discusses issues that occur in society, namely children as perpetrators of violent crimes. This research will not only examine the normative aspects but also their application in society. This type of sociological legal research was chosen because the application of criminal profiling in cases involving children as perpetrators of violence cannot be separated from law enforcement officials, especially investigators, in examining the psychological and social conditions of children when dealing with the law. This study aims to

⁶ Sari et al.

⁷ R. J. Morton and W. D. Lord, "Criminal Profiling," *Encyclopedia of Forensic and Legal Medicine*, no. 2012 (2005): 51–55, <https://doi.org/10.1016/B0-12-369399-3/00086-0>.

examine the relationship between child investigators in law and the reality in society.

Result and Discussion

A. Factors That Influence Children to Become Perpetrators of Violent Crimes.

Crimes today are not only committed by adults but also by children. Many children commit crimes. Children have different understandings depending on their needs. According to the Civil Code, a child is a person who has not reached the age of 21 or is not yet married. Law Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights and Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection state that a child is a person who is under 18 years of age or is not yet married, including children who are still in their mother's womb. Meanwhile, according to Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Criminal Justice System, a child is a person who is 12 years old and has not yet reached the age of 18.⁸

In Juvenile Criminal Law, children who have dealings with the law are referred to as children in conflict with the law (ABH). Children in conflict with the law (ABH) are divided into three categories, namely:

1. Offender Children, who are children suspected of having committed a criminal offense.
2. Child Victims, child victims are children who have been victims of a criminal offense.
3. Child Witnesses, who are children who witnessed, heard, saw, or experienced a criminal offense firsthand.⁹

⁸ KPAI, "Undang-Undang Republik Indonesia 2012, Nomor 11 Tahun Tentang Anak, Sistem Peradilan Pidana," *BPHN Republik Indonesia*, no. 1 (2012): 10, <https://bphn.go.id/data/documents/12uu011.pdf>.

⁹ Izzartur Rusuli, "Psikososial Remaja: Sebuah Sintesa Teori Erick Erikson Dengan Konsep Islam," *Jurnal As-Salam* 6, no. 1 (2022): 75–89, <https://doi.org/10.37249/assalam.v6i1.384>.

The phenomenon of children becoming perpetrators of crime has been rampant lately. According to data from the Directorate General of Corrections of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, from 2020 to August 2023, there were around 2,000 children who became perpetrators of crime. Meanwhile, from January to February 2025, there were approximately 1,253 cases involving children as perpetrators of criminal acts, with 437 children committing theft, 460 children committing abuse and assault, 349 drug cases, and 7 cases of fighting.

According to Piaget, adolescence is the age when teenagers interact with society, and at that age, they feel that they are on the same level as adults. Children aged 12 to 18 are still in an unstable psychological condition and are easily influenced by their surroundings. Children of this age are still very influenced by their emotions, making it difficult for them to think realistically. At this age, adolescents are also busy searching for roles, status, and positions with the aim of gaining attention from the surrounding community.¹⁰

Children of this age are also very attached to their social groups or the groups they belong to, so whatever the group does, the teenager will also follow suit. When a teenager joins a group that often commits crimes, then that teenager will most likely also commit crimes, and vice versa. If the child joins a group that often studies, then the child will also likely become diligent in studying.¹¹

During this period, they seek attention from their neighborhood, friends, family, and the environment in which they grow up. They will do anything to get attention, including misbehavior and crime. Crimes often committed by teenagers usually take the form of violence and several other crimes. Violent crimes are acts that show

¹⁰ Kasmianti et al 2023, "No Title 濟無 No Title No Title No Title" 32, no. 3 (2021): 167–86.

¹¹ Aziz Al Rosyid et al., "Kajian Kriminologi Atas Kasus Anak Sebagai Pelaku Tindak Pidana Pencurian (Studi Di Wilayah Pendahuluan (Introduction)," *Law Research Review Quarterly* 5, no. 2 (2019): 159–80, <https://journal.unnes.ac.id/sju/index.php/snh/article/download/31115/17049>.

cruelty, savagery, and ferocity that are deliberately committed against others, causing harm to others, whether physically, mentally, or economically.¹²

Violence can be committed either individually or in groups to intimidate certain individuals or groups who are perceived to be weaker. According to the Criminal Code and the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), violence is an act that can cause injury or death to another person. Violence is not only physical, but can also be mental and sexual. Therefore, violence is divided into three types, namely:

- 1) Physical violence is violence whose effects are felt directly as pain and can be seen with the eyes. Physical violence usually leaves wounds or scars on its victims. This type of violence has a significant impact on its victims because it can cause minor or moderate injuries, and in the most severe cases, it can result in death. Physical violence usually takes the form of stabbing, beating, and various other acts of violence that can cause injury to the victim.
- 2) Psychological violence is violence that affects a person's psychology or mental state, causing the victim to experience mental disorders that require treatment by a psychologist or psychiatrist. This form of mental violence usually takes the form of hurtful words, insults, threats, and other acts that cause fear and trauma to a person's psyche or mental state.
- 3) Sexual violence is an act that degrades, insults, or attacks a person's body sexually. Sexual violence is divided into two types: verbal sexual violence, such as whistling, words,

¹² Khairul Ihsan, "Faktor Penyebab Anak Melakukan Tindakan Kriminal," *Psikostudia: Jurnal Psikologi* 3, no. 2 (2019): 1–15, <http://e-journals.unmul.ac.id/index.php/PSIKO/article/view/3047>.

or gestures of a sexual nature that cause discomfort to the victim; and physical sexual violence, such as groping, touching, or movements directed at private or sexual parts of the body that cause discomfort to the victim.¹³

Violence is divided into three categories, but the impacts of these types of violence are interconnected. People who experience physical violence will also feel mental or psychological impacts, and sexual violence sometimes has physical and psychological impacts as well.

Children committing violent crimes became a phenomenon that shocked society. This phenomenon emerged in various regions of Indonesia, including Java, such as Yogyakarta, Sleman, Semarang, and several other areas. This phenomenon emerged around mid-2025 and is often known as Klitih. Klitih is a phenomenon where teenagers commit violent crimes on the streets. These teenagers gather on the streets carrying sharp weapons such as machetes, knives, sickles, and chains. Klitih is not a planned and structured crime, so the targets are random people passing by on the streets. This phenomenon occurs because these teenagers want to show their identity and gain recognition and praise from their friends or people around them.¹⁴

Children who commit violent crimes are usually influenced by several factors, both internal and external.¹⁵ These influencing factors include family, psychology, environment, economy, society, and social media. Therefore, this study will use a literature review research technique by analyzing several court decisions regarding children as

¹³ "Pengertian Penganiayaan," n.d.

¹⁴ Aidah Aidah and Fika Tantri Amaliah, "Fenomena Klitih Sebagai Kejahatan Remaja Di Ruang Publik Perkotaan Dalam Perspektif Kriminologi Lingkungan," *Journal of Innovative and Creativity (Joecy)* 6, no. 1 (2026): 363–69, <https://doi.org/10.31004/joecy.v6i1.6485>.

¹⁵ Gatot Marwoko, "Psikologi Perkembangan Masa Remaja," *Jurnal Tabbiyah Syari'ah Islam* 26, no. 1 (2019): 60–75.

perpetrators of violent crimes as the subject, so that the factors that influence children to commit violent crimes can be identified.¹⁶

1. Decision Number 5/Pid.Sus-Anak/2023/PN Mks

This case began in March 2022, when the perpetrator, whose initials are MA, was 17 years old at the time, watched a YouTube short video discussing human organs and the price of each organ. Then, in December 2022, MA opened a website called Yandex and sent emails with the names , info@organstrade.com, and with a message saying, "I want to sell children's organs for my economy, is that possible? What are the conditions for selling organs?" Are there any conditions for selling organs?" However, the email was never replied to. A few days after sending the email, MA invited his friend, whose initials are FA, to join him in making money by selling children's organs. FA agreed to the invitation and they agreed to look for victims around 6th grade elementary school age to kill and harvest their organs.

MA's child went out several times at night to find victims for his plan, but had not found any victims until he finally met the victim FS around January 2023. At that time, the victim, FS, was working as a parking attendant with his friend when the perpetrator, MA, offered FS a job cleaning his house for a fee of Rp. 50,000.00 (fifty thousand rupiah). After FS agreed, he was immediately taken to MA's house on a motorcycle. Upon arriving at the house, FS was told to sit and wait in the living room while playing games on a laptop using headphones.

While FS was engrossed in playing games, MA's son strangled FS with his left arm, causing FS to scream and be gagged by FA. The victim FS fell, and MA slammed FS's head hard against the floor three times until the victim FS lost consciousness. After the victim FS lost consciousness, MA took the victim FS to the bathroom and told FA to find a large bag.

¹⁶ Gatot Marwoko.

After FS died, MA panicked and tied FS's hands and feet before placing him in a large plastic bag. MA and FA then disposed of FS's body under the Nipa-Nipa Dam bridge in Moncong Loe, Maros Regency. MA and FS did not proceed with organ trafficking because they did not know how to remove the organs.¹⁷

2. Judgment No. 2/Criminal-Juvenile/PN. Rno

This case began on March 12, 2024, at around 10:00 a.m. WITA, when the victim, who had just gotten married, was being taken by her parents to her husband's house. After arriving at the location, the victim and her family held a ceremony until it ended at around 3:30 p.m. WITA and said goodbye to go home. The victim, who is blind, had to be guided while walking. When the victim arrived at the house, the perpetrator's child approached the victim with a stone in his left hand and struck the victim on the left temple, causing a laceration.

After hitting the victim with a rock, the perpetrator's child immediately fled into the forest and was chased by local residents, but the perpetrator's child managed to escape. The perpetrator's child hid in the forest until nightfall. The perpetrator's child admitted that no one told him to hit the victim with a rock; he did it on his own accord and of his own volition because he had heard stories from people that the victim had used foul language and insulted his uncle, who was the spokesperson at the time. The perpetrator's child felt emotional when he heard the story, especially considering that he had just been drinking alcohol, so when he saw the victim, he immediately hit him.¹⁸

3. Judgment Number 5/Pid.Sus-Anak/2023/PN Sgn

This case began on November 19, 2022, at around 8:00 p.m. Western Indonesian Time, when the perpetrator's child and several

¹⁷ Direktori Putusan, Mahkamah Agung, and Republik Indonesia, n.d.

¹⁸ Putusan, Agung, and Indonesia.

witnesses discussed gathering grades 2, 3, and 4, which are equivalent to grades 1 and 2 of junior high school and grade 1 of senior high school, with the aim of evaluating rayon members during October to November 2022. The perpetrator's child had asked permission from the Islamic boarding school that children who violated the rules would be punished by having to buy cleaning supplies. Approximately 40 children were gathered, and after all the children had gathered, they were told to separate themselves from the group that had violated the rules.

The child witness to this incident asked the rule violators if they wanted a quick punishment of buying cleaning supplies or a long punishment of cleaning the boarding school environment. However, the children who violated the rules disagreed with these punishments and chose to be punished by being beaten. The child witness then asked other children if they also wanted to be punished by being beaten, and about five children came forward to receive such punishment. After that, the child witness asked the same question again, and several more children came forward to receive the punishment.

At around 10:45 p.m., the perpetrator told the victim to get into a horse stance and hold his breath. Once the victim was in position, the perpetrator hit him twice on the left side of his chest with his right hand, causing the victim to exhale. The perpetrator then hit the victim again in the middle of his chest. After hitting the victim, the perpetrator's child told the victim to lift his sarong with the intention of kicking his leg, but before the victim's leg was kicked, the victim fell and hit his head on the floor, causing him to have convulsions and lose consciousness. The perpetrator's child immediately tried to help the victim by applying eucalyptus oil, but the victim remained unconscious and was taken to a clinic, which then referred him to a hospital due to

the clinic's lack of equipment. However, the victim died after arriving at the hospital.¹⁹

Case Analysis Table

Perpetrator's Identity	Criminal Act	Motive	Relationship between perpetrator and victim	Demographic conditions
The perpetrator's initials are MA and he is 17 years old.	Violence resulting in death.	Selling the victim's organs and obtaining money.	The perpetrator and victim had no relationship whatsoever.	The suspect's child was influenced by YouTube videos they watched and their poor economic conditions, leading the suspect to be tempted by the money they could obtain by selling organs. The perpetrator also did not receive adequate supervision from their parents.
The perpetrator's	Assault.	Heartbreak and emotional	The fiancée of his	The perpetrator's child had been abandoned by his

¹⁹ Direktori Putusan, Mahkamah Agung, and Republik Indonesia, n.d.

initials are not available, and at the time of the incident, the perpetrator was not yet 17 years old.		distress because his uncle had been insulted by his cousin's fiancée.	cousin's older brother.	father for a long time and only attended elementary school. The perpetrator's family's economic situation was poor, so the perpetrator helped his mother earn money. Additionally, the perpetrator's environmental conditions were also poor, as he was intoxicated from alcohol at the time of the assault.
The child's initials are unknown, and the child is 16 years old.	Violence resulting in death.	No motive.	A boarding school friend.	This violence occurred when the perpetrator's child wanted to punish the students who did not obey the boarding school rules, and the victim's child chose to be beaten rather than cleaning the boarding school or

				buying cleaning supplies. The victim and several of his friends preferred to be beaten rather than face other punishments, which had become a common practice among students at the boarding school because the punishment was requested and not forced by the perpetrator.
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From the case analysis table above, it can be seen that all perpetrators were male, aged 16-17 years. The violent crimes committed by these three children were due to poor economic conditions, lack of supervision from older people, and habits from the surrounding environment that made children feel that violence was a normal thing to happen.

B. The Application of Criminal Profiling as a Supporting Tool for Investigators of Children as Perpetrators of Violent Crimes in Indonesia.

Criminal profiling is an investigative strategy that can be used by law enforcement officials to analyze and identify suspects in a

criminal case. Investigators typically use criminal profiling techniques to link cases that are believed to have the same perpetrator. The technique of criminal profiling has been used for a long time. In the past, many experts mapped out a person's psychology. For example, in Europe, there was a treatise called *Malleus Maleficarum* (The Hammer of Witches) written by a German Catholic priest, Heinrich Kramer, which described the psychological conditions of people suspected of being witches at that time. At the time, this treatise was used as a reference to understand the character, behavior, and signs believed to be inherent in suspected individuals, thus indirectly reflecting the early form of thinking about analyzing a person's character based on certain characteristics. This shows that the idea of grouping individuals' traits, behaviors, and tendencies has actually been known for a long time, even though at that time it was still simple and did not use modern scientific methods as used in criminal profiling practices today. Thus, the development of criminal profiling techniques can be understood as a continuation of human efforts since ancient times to map and understand individual characteristics based on certain behavioral and psychological indicators.

In 1835, an Italian psychologist named Cesare Lombroso attempted to distinguish criminals based on gender, age, education, physical characteristics, and geographical region. These qualifications helped Lombroso understand the origins of criminal behavior, as through this grouping he sought to trace the relationship between biological, social, and environmental factors and a person's tendency to commit crimes. Lombroso successfully analyzed approximately 383 prisoners and divided them into three types: congenital criminals, degenerative criminals, and criminals suffering from mental illness, each classified based on certain characteristics that he believed could be observed and identified. Then in the 1960s, this criminal profiling technique was introduced to the FBI and used to solve several cases,

such as those involving J. Edgar Hoover, Ted Bundy, Gary Ridgway, John Duffy, David Mulcahy, and several others. The use of this technique shows that the approach of analyzing perpetrator behavior began to develop into a more systematic and structured method of investigation, thereby helping law enforcement officials understand crime patterns, narrow down the list of suspects, and improve the overall effectiveness of the investigation process.

This criminal profiling technique has been implemented in several countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia. Its implementation in these countries shows that this method has been recognized as an effective investigative approach in helping law enforcement agencies uncover criminal cases in a more targeted and behavior-based manner. Several countries in Asia, such as South Korea and Japan, have also applied this criminal profiling technique in their investigation processes, especially in handling cases that are highly complex and involve repeated crime patterns. South Korea itself has applied criminal profiling since the 2000s as part of its efforts to modernize its criminal investigation system. This technique was initially used due to the large number of brutal serial murder cases in the 1990s that could not be solved using traditional investigation techniques, thus requiring a more in-depth and systematic behavioral analysis technique. Kwon Il Yong was the first criminal profiler in South Korea to successfully analyze 1,000 criminals in South Korea, and his success became an important milestone in the development of the use of criminal profiling in the country. The application of this method has since grown and is recognized as an important part of modern investigation strategies because it helps investigators understand the characteristics of perpetrators and crime patterns more comprehensively.

Indonesia itself still faces many obstacles in the field of investigation and case resolution. This condition can be seen from a

number of cases that have yet to be fully resolved, such as the murder of Munir Said Thalib, the Setiabudi 13 murders, and several other cases that are still in the public eye. In addition, wrongful arrests are very common in Indonesia and have become a serious problem in law enforcement because they can violate a person's human rights and undermine public trust in law enforcement agencies. An example is the Vina Cirebon case, which was investigated because a woman was suspected of being possessed by Vina's spirit and claimed that Vina had been murdered. After the case was investigated, the police arrested someone along with Pegi Setiawan, who was suspected of being the last of the nine perpetrators of the murder. However, through a pre-trial process, it was declared that the arrest was an error in persona and therefore invalid. This incident shows that misidentification of perpetrators can still occur in investigative practices if the analysis process is not carried out carefully and based on strong data. There are several other cases of wrongful arrest that also demonstrate the importance of improving the quality of investigation methods, the accuracy of officials, and the use of scientific approaches in identifying perpetrators of criminal acts so that similar mistakes can be minimized in the future.²⁰

Wrongful arrests in Indonesia are caused by a lack of experts in determining or describing suspects from evidence at the scene or witness statements in these cases. This condition shows that the limited number of human resources with special expertise in criminal behavior analysis and evidence interpretation can have a direct impact on the accuracy of the perpetrator identification process. Therefore, criminal profiling is one of the investigative techniques that can help investigators describe suspects in existing cases, because this method

²⁰ Pascal Caya Khrisna Wicaksana and Lucky Nurhadiyanto, "Analisis Criminal Profiling Terhadap Pelaku Pembunuhan Berencana Berbasis General Theory of Crime," *Unerev* 6, no. 4 (2024): 9862–75.

allows for more focused, systematic, and behavior-based analysis. The criminal profiling technique also serves to find out the physical characteristics, traits, and demographic conditions of the perpetrator, so that law enforcement officials have a clearer initial picture of the individual they are looking for. According to Ronald M. Holmes and Stephen T. Holmes, before arresting a criminal, the initial assumptions obtained from the compilation of criminal profiling become the first reference in the search for the perpetrator. This opinion confirms that criminal profiling is not merely an estimate, but an initial analytical tool that plays an important role in helping investigators determine the direction of the search, narrow down the list of suspects, and avoid misidentification that could lead to wrongful arrest.²¹

This criminal profiling technique is also very helpful in investigating cases involving children as perpetrators of violence so that investigators use the appropriate interrogation methods and approaches to obtain information from the child about their motives and reasons for committing the crime. The use of the right approach is very important because children as perpetrators have different psychological conditions than adult perpetrators, so the examination process must be carried out with consideration for child protection aspects, emotional conditions, and the child's ability to understand the situation they are facing. The discovery of evidence, witness statements from the vicinity of the crime scene, witness statements, and the conditions of the environment surrounding the crime scene can help describe the characteristics of the perpetrator of the crime, which can then be used as clues or references in the search for the perpetrator. When analyzed comprehensively, this information will provide a clearer picture of the perpetrator's behavior patterns, possible background, and

²¹ Marselina E.P Mangindaan, Jofie H Mandang, and Gloridei L Kapahang, "Analisis Criminal Profiling Pelaku Pembunuhan Dan Pemerkosaan Anak," *INNOVATIVE: Journal Of Social Science Research* 5, no. 3 (2025): 23–34, <https://j-innovative.org/index.php/Innovative>.

factors that influenced the criminal incident. Thus, criminal profiling techniques not only serve as an analytical tool but also as a means to ensure that the investigation process against children as perpetrators remains effective, proportional, and in accordance with the principle of prudence in law enforcement.²²

Indonesia has actually implemented this criminal profiling technique, but no relevant parties have undergone training in criminal profiling. The police will seek assistance from psychologists or psychiatrists to help create criminal profiles. There are six stages involved in creating a criminal profile, namely:

1. Profile input stage

The profile input stage is the stage of searching for data related to the case, such as evidence, evidence tools, the conditions of the crime scene, witness statements, and other matters related to the case. At this stage, the information gathering process is carried out systematically, comprehensively, and structurally so that every detail related to the incident can be properly documented and nothing is overlooked. All data obtained is then recorded, classified, and verified to ensure its accuracy and relevance to the criminal incident being analyzed. This data collection also includes tracing the chronology of events, identifying the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, and observing certain patterns or signs that appear at the scene of the crime. Thus, this profile input stage is a very important basis because the quality and completeness of the data collected will greatly determine the accuracy of the analysis in the subsequent stages of the criminal profile development process.

2. Decision-making process model stage

²² Andi Wardana, Ivan Muhammad Agung, and Adri Murni, "Profiling Pelaku Pencabulan Anak: Studi Kasus Di Kabupaten Kampar Riau," *Jurnal Psikologi Integratif* 1, no. 1 (2013): 196–204.

At this stage, the analysis process will begin after all the necessary data has been collected. This process aims to determine and group the information that has been successfully collected. The data analyzed will produce information such as the type of crime, time of occurrence, condition of the victim, preliminary evidence, and pattern of events. This stage serves to form an initial framework for understanding the case and determining the direction of the investigation and the approach methods that can be used. In practice, each piece of information obtained will be carefully examined, paying attention to the connections between data so that it can be compiled into a logical and systematic picture of the incident. This grouping process also helps investigators distinguish between relevant facts and information that is not directly related to the case. In addition, analysis at this stage allows for the identification of early indications regarding the characteristics of the incident and the possible behavior patterns of the perpetrator. Therefore, this stage plays an important role as it provides a conceptual basis that will guide the next steps of the investigation so that it can be conducted in a focused, effective, and rational manner.

3. Crime assessment stage

After the facts of the case have been gathered, investigators or experts will analyze the perpetrator's pattern of behavior, Method of operation, level of violence, and the possible relationship between the victim and the perpetrator. This stage aims to determine the motive for the crime and whether the crime was committed in the heat of the moment or was premeditated. In the process, a thorough analysis is conducted by examining the connections between each fact found in order to understand the sequence of events in their entirety and chronologically. This examination also includes an interpretation of the perpetrator's behavior during the crime, including actions before, during, and after the incident, so that indications of intent, purpose, and

certain patterns of behavior can be identified. In addition, this stage allows investigators to identify the psychological and situational elements that influence the occurrence of crime, so that the conclusions obtained are not only based on assumptions, but on rational and systematic analysis. Thus, this stage plays an important role in clarifying the characteristics of criminal events and helping to determine the appropriate steps in the further investigation process.

4. Criminal profiling stage

This stage involves compiling or describing the characteristics of the perpetrator of the crime. At this stage, experts will develop hypotheses regarding the perpetrator's characteristics, age, gender, height, psychological condition, habits, and employment history (if possible). The purpose of this stage is to narrow down the scope of the search for the perpetrator. In practice, hypotheses are developed by integrating all previous analysis results so that each estimate is logically based and scientifically accountable.²³ Experts interpret behavior patterns, choices of action, and specific characteristics that emerge in criminal events to form a consistent and realistic profile. Furthermore, the results of this characterization are not intended to directly confirm a person's identity, but rather to serve as an analytical guide that helps investigators focus their investigation on individuals who match the profile. Thus, this stage has a strategic function because it can increase the effectiveness of the search for the perpetrator while reducing the possibility of errors in determining the target of the investigation.

5. The investigation stage

After the profiling and analysis of the perpetrator's characteristics are complete, the field investigation process can be

²³ Fathul Lubabin Nuqul, "Psychological Profiles of Child Sex Offenders : Insights from Indonesia and International Perspectives," 2025, 20–27.

carried out using the results of criminal profiling as a reference so that the investigation process can run efficiently and in a focused manner, thereby reducing the possibility of arresting the wrong perpetrator. At this stage, the profiling results are used as operational guidelines for investigators in determining the steps of the field investigation, including determining search priorities, witness examination strategies, and approaches to individuals who are under suspicion. The information obtained from the profile analysis also helps investigators understand the perpetrator's possible behavior, movement patterns, and future tendencies so that the investigation process can be carried out in a more systematic and focused manner. In addition, the use of these analysis results enables law enforcement officials to optimize investigative resources, in terms of time, manpower, and methods used, so that every step taken has a clear and rational basis. Thus, this stage plays an important role in ensuring that the investigation process is effective, targeted, and upholds the principle of prudence in law enforcement.

6. The arrest stage

Once all stages are complete and the suspect has been identified, the arrest process will proceed. Criminal profiling helps law enforcement officials determine the arrest method, the possibility of resistance, attempts to escape, and evaluate the accuracy of the perpetrator's profiling results. In practice, the information generated from the profiling process is used to develop an appropriate arrest strategy, including determining the time, location, and tactical approach that suits the characteristics of the suspect. Profile analysis also allows officials to anticipate the response that may be shown by the perpetrator during the arrest, so that security measures can be carefully prepared to minimize the risk to officers and others around them. In addition, this stage serves as a means of evaluating the accuracy and validity of previous analysis results by comparing the characteristics of

the profile that has been compiled with the actual conditions of the suspect. Thus, the arrest stage is not only the final part of the law enforcement process, but also plays an important role as a verification stage to assess the effectiveness of criminal profiling methods in investigative practice.²⁴

The above explanation leads to the conclusion that criminal profiling can be applied from the very beginning of an investigation. Criminal profiling can be used not only for adults but also for children who have committed crimes. This is done so that investigators can use the appropriate methods and not make children feel judged or cornered by investigators. This criminal profiling technique also helps investigators understand the child's condition and background, making it easier and more efficient to find out the motive behind the violent crime committed by the child. Criminal profiling techniques can be an appropriate supporting instrument for law enforcement officials, especially investigators, if these techniques are carried out by experts in the field. In international practice, criminal profiling techniques are carried out by experts such as forensic psychologists or criminal profilers themselves.²⁵ Criminal profiling techniques can be an appropriate supporting instrument for law enforcement officials, especially investigators, if investigators with forensic psychology or criminal profilers themselves can work together and increase the effectiveness of investigations while protecting the rights of suspects, especially children as perpetrators.

Conclusion

Rapid developments demand that the law be flexible and adaptive in order to keep pace with the changing forms, patterns, and

²⁴ Arinda Nasywa Fadillah et al., "Peran Criminal Profiling Terhadap Pelaku Pembunuhan," *Journal of Education* 5, no. 1 (2025): 10–21.

²⁵ RIZA SATIVA, "Scientific Investigation Dalam Penyidikan Tindak Pidana Pembunuhan," *Jurnal Ilmu Kepolisian* 15, no. 1 (2021): 11, <https://doi.org/10.35879/jik.v15i1.295>.

characteristics of crime. Crime is not static in nature and often emerges before the laws that regulate it, requiring law enforcement officials to have methods that are not only based on formal procedures but also supported by scientific approaches that can provide a deeper understanding of the perpetrator's behavior. In this context, *criminal profiling* techniques have become a relevant investigative strategy used to assist law enforcement officials in analyzing and identifying suspects based on the behavioral characteristics, psychological conditions, motives, and backgrounds of perpetrators of criminal acts. The phenomenon of children as perpetrators of violent crimes is a worrying condition because it shows that crimes are not only committed by adults, but also by children or adolescents who are still in their psychological development stage. The factors that influence children to commit crimes are generally complex and interrelated, including family, environment, friendships, economic conditions, psychological conditions, and the influence of social media. The complexity of these factors shows that criminal behavior in children cannot be understood from only one perspective, but must be analyzed comprehensively by considering the mental and emotional development of the child. Therefore, the handling of children as perpetrators of crime must be done differently from adult perpetrators, both in the approach to investigation, examination, and the determination of legal measures to be taken.

The results of the study of court decisions analyzed in this research show that acts of violence committed by children generally have certain behavioral patterns that can be identified through a *criminal profiling* approach. These patterns can be seen from the way the perpetrator commits the crime, the actions taken, the relationship with the victim, and the circumstances surrounding the incident. Analysis of these patterns shows that many cases of violence committed by children are influenced by unstable emotional conditions, impulsive

urges, social environmental influences, and lack of self-control. This confirms that crimes committed by children are often not fully planned actions, but are triggered by certain situations related to the psychological and social conditions of the child. *Criminal profiling* techniques play an important role in this regard because they can help investigators understand the characteristics of the perpetrator based on data obtained from the crime scene, evidence, witness statements, and patterns of events. Through this analysis, investigators can obtain an initial picture of the perpetrator's characteristics, mental condition, possible motives, and social background so that the search for suspects can be carried out in a more focused manner. The use of this technique also serves to narrow the scope of the investigation, increase the efficiency of investigators' work, and minimize the possibility of misidentifying the perpetrator, which could lead to wrongful arrest.

The problem of wrongful arrests that still occurs in law enforcement practices in Indonesia shows that the investigation process is not yet fully supported by a systematic behavioral analysis approach. One of the factors causing this condition is the limited number of experts who have special competencies in analyzing the characteristics of perpetrators based on available evidence and information. This limitation means that the process of identifying perpetrators often relies solely on assumptions or subjective interpretations, which can potentially lead to errors in determining suspects. Therefore, the use of *criminal profiling* techniques is important as an investigative support tool that can assist law enforcement officials in describing the profile of perpetrators more objectively and based on scientific analysis.

From a legal perspective, the use of *criminal profiling* does not conflict with criminal procedure provisions because this technique is not a piece of evidence, but rather an analytical method used to assist in the investigation and inquiry process. Criminal profiles serve as a starting point in the search for perpetrators, not as the sole basis for

determining a person's guilt. Thus, the application of this technique can actually strengthen the principle of prudence in law enforcement because every step of the investigation is carried out based on rational and structured analysis. The urgency of applying *criminal profiling* becomes even more important when linked to the principle of child protection in the juvenile criminal justice system, which emphasizes a guidance approach and the best interests of the child. This technique allows investigators to use examination methods that are appropriate for the psychological condition of children so that the process of obtaining information can be carried out without pressure, coercion, or violence. The right approach not only helps to obtain information more accurately, but also protects the mental condition of children so that they do not experience trauma during the legal process.

The application of *criminal profiling* as a supporting tool for investigators dealing with children as perpetrators of violent crimes plays a strategic role in improving the effectiveness of law enforcement. This technique can help law enforcement officials understand the characteristics of perpetrators more comprehensively, determine the appropriate investigation strategy, and ensure that the law enforcement process remains proportional, objective, and humane. Therefore, efforts are needed to strengthen human resource capacity, institutional support, and policy development that supports the use of profiling techniques so that they can be optimally applied in the criminal justice system in Indonesia.

The use of behavioral analysis approaches such as *criminal profiling* is a relevant necessity in dealing with the dynamics of modern crime, especially those involving children as perpetrators. Without innovative investigative methods, the law enforcement process risks being limited in its understanding of the characteristics of perpetrators and the background of criminal acts. Therefore, the integration of *criminal profiling* techniques into investigative practices is a strategic

step towards realizing law enforcement that is not only effective in uncovering crime, but also fair, rehabilitation-oriented, and upholds the principle of child protection.

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