

# The Position of the Visum Et Repertum in the Investigation Process of the Crime of Assault by the Rokan Hilir Criminal Investigation Unit

Aldo Fiqri Maulana<sup>1\*</sup>, Risdalina<sup>2</sup>, Kusno<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup> Fakultas Hukum, Universitas Labuhanbatu, Indonesia

\*Corresponding Author:

Email: [risdalinasiregar@gmail.com](mailto:risdalinasiregar@gmail.com)

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## Abstract.

*Evidence plays a central role in law enforcement against assault crimes. One piece of evidence that is often key is the Visum et Repertum (VeR), or medical examination report. This article discusses the strategic role of the VeR in the investigation process conducted by the Rokan Hilir Police Criminal Investigation Unit, from its legal function as evidence to its role as a guide in uncovering the motives and perpetrators of assault crimes. Legally, VeR has dual power as valid evidence according to Article 184 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP), namely as expert testimony from a doctor and as a letter made by a public official. This duality provides significant legal weight. For investigators from the Rokan Hilir Criminal Investigation Unit, VeR is not just a list of injuries; it is an objective and scientific primary evidence. Its functions include: (1) being the basis for qualifying the applicable article, distinguishing between ordinary, serious, or fatal assault; (2) being a verification tool to test the consistency of the statements of witnesses, victims, and suspects; (3) providing clues (indications) regarding the modus operandi, the tools used, and the chronology of events, which are very vital in the reconstruction of events.*

**Keywords:** *Visum et Repertum; Investigation and Criminal Act of Assault.*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Assault is one of the most common crimes in society and often results in physical and psychological harm to the victim. In handling cases, investigators require valid evidence to confirm the crime and identify the perpetrator. One of the important pieces of evidence in assault cases is the Visum et Repertum (VeR), which is a written statement from the doctor who examined the victim regarding the extent of the injuries or other medical conditions experienced. Legally, the existence of a Visum et Repertum is regulated in the Criminal Procedure Code as part of the written evidence that plays a crucial role in investigations. At the level of evidence in court, VeR is often the main or supporting evidence in proving the element of "causing injury" or "causing pain" as regulated in the Criminal Code. Therefore, the quality of VeR directly impacts the quality of investigations by the Criminal Investigation Unit (Reskrim), including at the Rokan Hilir Police. *Visum et repertum* is one of the important pieces of evidence in the investigation of criminal acts of assault. In the context of investigations conducted by the Criminal Investigation Unit at the Rokan Hilir Police, the visum et repertum serves as initial evidence that provides an objective picture of the victim's medical condition and the physical impact of the assault.

This document is prepared by medical personnel (doctors) after examining the victim, and the results can serve as strong evidence that helps investigators uncover the facts of the criminal act of assault. The crime of assault, as regulated in Articles 351 to 355 of the Criminal Code (KUHP), is one of the most common crimes in society, including in Rokan Hilir Regency. In handling this case, the Rokan Hilir Police Criminal Investigation Unit, as the authorized investigator, is required to build a strong case in court. The evidentiary process requires objective and scientific data, and this is where the Visum et Repertum plays a crucial role. A Visum et Repertum (VeR) is a written report prepared by a doctor at the request of an investigator (in this case the Criminal Investigation Unit) containing a complete and detailed description of the condition, type, and location of injuries found on the body of a victim or suspect. Literally, this term comes from Latin, meaning "seen and found." A VeR is not just an ordinary medical report, but rather a report of an examination that has legal force as evidence.

Based on the description above, the problem formulation in this article is:

1. What is the legal position of the Visum et Repertum as evidence in the investigation process of criminal acts of assault according to the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP)?
2. What is the procedure for requesting and utilizing a Visum et Repertum by the Rokan Hilir Police Criminal Investigation Unit, and what obstacles are encountered in practice in the field?

## II. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A visum et repertum is an official medical report prepared by a doctor after examining a victim of a crime, including assault, to document physical conditions such as wounds or bruises. This document qualifies as written evidence according to Article 184 paragraph (1) letter c of the Criminal Procedure Code, because it is prepared by a medical expert authentically and objectively. In the investigation of assault by the Rokan Hilir Police Criminal Investigation Unit, a visum serves as initial evidence that describes the causal relationship between the perpetrator's actions and the victim's injuries. The request for a visum must be written by the investigator, submitted directly to the doctor, and carried out as early as possible after the incident to maintain the accuracy of the evidence. The procedure includes the identity of the victim, the requester, the date, and the reason for the examination, with the victim being accompanied by the police within a 20-day deadline, extendable up to 40 days.

At the Rokan Hilir Police, as in cases of robbery or assault, a direct medical examination is used to confirm bruises or abrasions as a basis for further investigation. Visum et repertum has perfect evidentiary power regarding its medical findings, as long as there is no other evidence that weakens it, and fulfills the principle of minimum evidence when combined with witness testimony or evidence. In the context of the Rokan Hilir Criminal Investigation Unit, this document is crucial for completing the assault case file, supporting the prosecutor's charges, and providing evidence in court, as evidenced by the relevant court ruling. It strengthens the criminal elements of assault as stipulated in Articles 351-358 of the Criminal Code. From a formal legal perspective, the position of the Visum et Repertum (VeR) in the Indonesian criminal law evidence system has a strong and unique basis. Article 184 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code states that valid evidence includes: witness statements, expert statements, letters, clues, and statements from the accused.

VeR occupies a special position because it can be qualified into two categories of evidence at once.

A. As Expert Testimony: VeR (Visum et Repertum) is essentially an opinion and conclusion provided by a medical expert (doctor) based on scientific knowledge and direct examination. In this context, the doctor acts as an expert witness, providing a professional assessment of the victim's condition. He did not witness the abuse, but he did witness and analyze its aftermath. Therefore, the doctor who prepared the VeR can, and often is, called to court to explain and defend the contents of his report under oath.

B. As a Letter (Document): VeR (Visum et Repertum) is also categorized as a "letter" because it is an official document made by a public official (authorized doctor) based on an official request from an investigator (Visum Request Letter). As an official letter, VeR has formal evidentiary power that complements its substantial power as expert testimony.

This dual position is what makes VeR such a powerful and difficult-to-rebut piece of evidence in court. It brings scientific objectivity to a legal process often fraught with subjectivity. In practical field investigations conducted by the Rokan Hilir Police Criminal Investigation Unit, VeR is much more than just an administrative document requirement. It serves as a navigation map that guides investigators from the initial stages to the conclusion of a case.

### a. Function as a Basis for Qualification of Criminal Acts

This is the most crucial function. Without VeR, investigators have difficulty determining the appropriate charges. VeR provides clear medical justification:

1. Ordinary Assault (Article 351 of the Criminal Code): Characterized by medical findings such as bruises, abrasions, minor lacerations, or swelling that are expected to heal within a short period of time without permanent disfigurement.

2. Serious Assault (Article 351 paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Criminal Code):VeR will describe injuries that fall into the "severe" category, such as broken bones, injuries that impair sensory function (e.g., blindness), life-threatening head injuries, or injuries that cause long-term illness or impairment of self-care.

3. Abuse Resulting in Death (Article 351 paragraph 4/Article 338 of the Criminal Code):In this case, the VeR for the living victim (if it has been examined) will be combined with the Visum et Repertum Post Mortem (autopsy) which determines the causal relationship between the injuries suffered and the cause of death.

**b. Function as a Verification and Correlation Tool**

The Criminal Investigation Unit uses VeR as a "truth tester" in interrogations and witness examinations.

1. If the suspect claims to have only committed the beating once, but the VeR shows a pattern of injuries on various parts of the body, this can be a basis for investigators to suspect repeated abuse or the involvement of more than one perpetrator.

2. If the victim or witness provides a chronology that does not match the nature and location of the injuries (for example, claiming to have been hit from the front but the dominant injuries were on the back of the body), VeR becomes a powerful tool for digging up the real truth.

**c. Function as a Provider of Instructions (Indications)**

VeR is a story written on the victim's body. A trained investigator can "read" the VeR to gain clues about the crime.

1. Tools used:Sharp wounds (cuts or stabs) indicate the use of a sharp weapon, while blunt wounds indicate an object such as wood, a pipe, or a fist.

2. Attack Strength and Direction:Wound characteristics can indicate the intensity of the attack and the relative position of the victim and perpetrator.

3. Modus Operandi:Certain wound patterns can point to the characteristics of a particular perpetrator or group, helping investigators build a profile of the perpetrator.

However, in its implementation, the Rokan Hilir Criminal Investigation Unit faces several obstacles:

1. **Forensic Medical Resource Limitations:**Not all regional hospitals have doctors who specialize in forensic science (judicial medicine). As a result, wound descriptions in VeRs sometimes lack detail or use the most accurate forensic terminology, which can diminish the strategic value of VeRs.

2. **Time Factor (Time Constraint):**Long lines at emergency departments for non-legal medical cases can delay post-mortem examinations. In criminal law, however, speed of evidence collection is critical. Some injuries, such as bruises, will also change over time.

3. **Coordination with Victims:**Sometimes victims, due to trauma or other reasons, are reluctant to be re-examined or provide clear information to the doctor, which can affect the quality of the anamnesis in the VeR.

4. **Cost:**Although for investigative purposes there should be no charge, in practice there are sometimes technical administrative obstacles that hinder this.

The procedure for requesting a post-mortem examination by investigators from the Rokan Hilir Police Criminal Investigation Unit begins with the receipt of a police report regarding an alleged act of assault. After receiving the report, investigators conduct an initial examination of the victim to determine the presence of injuries and their connection to the crime. If indications of injuries resulting from a crime are found, investigators issue a Post-mortem Examination Request Letter based on Article 133 of the Criminal Procedure Code, addressed to a doctor or authorized health facility. The victim is then escorted or accompanied by investigators to a hospital or community health center for a medical examination.

The doctor then conducts the examination and records the results in a written Post-mortem Examination Form. The completed Post-mortem Examination Form is submitted to the investigator for inclusion in the case file and use as written evidence during the investigation and prosecution.By understanding these positions, functions, and constraints, the Rokan Hilir Criminal Investigation Unit can maximize the use of the Visum et Repertum, not only as a supplement to the case file, but also as a spearhead

in uncovering and proving criminal acts of assault. Sustainable synergy with health institutions is key to overcoming various operational challenges.

### III. CONCLUSION

Based on the entire discussion, it can be concluded that the Visum et Repertum (VeR) holds a central and strategic position in the investigation of assault crimes by the Rokan Hilir Police Criminal Investigation Unit. Its position is not merely administrative, but also substantive and determines the direction of the investigation.

1. From a legal perspective, VeR has very strong legal force because it is considered valid evidence based on Article 184 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code, with a dual position as Expert Statement and Letter. This duality makes VeR objective and scientific evidence that serves as the foundation for building an indictment. Although the VeR request procedure has been standardized, its implementation in the field still faces obstacles, such as limited forensic medical personnel, time factors, and inter-institutional coordination.
2. VeR is an objective evidence tool that can explain the condition of the victim's injuries, determine the appropriate article, and strengthen the evidence process both at the investigation stage and in court.

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