

Independence of Notaries in Carrying Out Their Position Based on the Notary Position Law and the Notary Code of Ethics

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Abstract

This research aims to analyze that independence within the code of ethics for notaries does not align with the obligations that must be fulfilled in carrying out their duties, which require them to be independent and not reliant on any party. Notaries are expected not to collaborate with anyone or promote themselves as notaries. Notaries must possess structural, functional, and financial independence. Since notaries hold a respected position and are not a business entity, entrepreneur, or business office, it cannot be justified for notaries to engage in such activities. In the context of cooperation between notarial service providers or service bureaus, it is necessary to examine the independence of notaries in executing their duties. This independence must be clearly defined in meaning and the processes of working as a notary so that notaries can avoid violations of the code of ethics that serve as the reference in carrying out their notarial duties. The results of this research aim to clarify the meaning of notary independence itself so that notaries, in executing their duties, do not violate the notarial code of ethics concerning the principle of notary independence.

Keywords: *Notary, Notary Independence*

INTRODUCTION

In carrying out civil law or private law actions, the community is assisted by Public Officials, in this case those authorized to make authentic deeds. As in the Civil Code (hereinafter referred to as KUHPer) stated in article 1868 of the KUHPer which states that "An authentic deed is a deed made in the form prescribed by law by or before a public official authorized to do so at the place where the deed is made"(Ali & Heryani, 2012). As based on Article 1 paragraph (1) of Law Number 2 of 2014 Concerning the Amendment to Law Number 30 of 2004 Concerning the Position of Notary or called (UUJN-P) states that "Notary is a public official authorized to make authentic deeds and has other authorities as referred to in this Law or based on other laws." Notaries in this case in carrying out their positions are appointed and dismissed by the Minister, as stated in article 2 of Law Number 30 of 2004 concerning Notary Positions(Mutmainnah et al., 2020).

A notary when dealing with duties in his position and obligations as a notary, a notary must always adhere to and comply with the provisions in the Notary Position Law (UUJN) and the notary code of ethics, as well as with provisions and rules based on other laws relating to notaries(Ramadhan & Permadi, 2019). Every notary in carrying out his position must behave professionally, have a good personality, respect between colleagues and maintain and defend the honor of the notary organization. Every notary is responsible for the profession he performs, which in this case is the professional code of ethics (Sulastini & Wahyu, 2010).

Deed is an important thing, the Deed made by Notary serves as evidence in the legal process, and as written evidence. In article 16 paragraph 1 letter a UUJN-P that Notaries are required to be trustworthy, honest, careful, independent, impartial, and safeguard the interests of parties related to all matters of legal acts performed. A notary in carrying out his position is related to his duties and authority, the appointment and dismissal of Notary administratively carried out by the government, namely the relevant Minister, but it does not mean that a notary will be

subordinate to government officials (Ardiman & Permadi, 2017). Notaries are public officials who must carry out their positions professionally and independently. This means that in carrying out their duties and positions, notaries cannot be interfered with or intervened by anyone, or in this case the party who has appointed them or other parties. Meanwhile, the definition of the independence of a notary is that the notary acts independently (independently) as a public official who is free and not affected or intervened by other parties (Adjie, 2007).

Notary is said to be structurally independent when the institution of the office stands alone institutionally outside the organizational structure of a particular state or government. For example, the extent to which the institution of the office of notary is within or outside the structure of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia. However, a notary can also be considered functionally independent when, despite being institutionally under or within a government organization, in performing its functions, it operates freely and cannot be intervened, even by relevant government officials. One other element that can be used as a measure of independence is finance. To the extent that notarial agencies can organize and manage their own finances, it can also be considered as independence. Similarly, with regard to personnel administration and so on, if the institution in question is not tied at all to the government administrative system, including in the process of appointing and dismissing employees, then the institution in question is considered unaffected by the interests of certain parties. If a Notary fulfills these four characteristics of independence, then it can be concluded that the Notary is truly independent. Therefore, the Notary does not have the will (*wilsvorming*) to make a deed for others, and the Notary will not make any deed if there is no request or will from the parties, and the Notary is not a party to the deed (Adjie, 2012).

Along with the times and technology, there are many service bureaus that serve to create a Limited Liability Company, Firm, or Commander Partnership through various kinds of social media or websites with quite competitive prices, the number of websites that provide Limited Liability Company creation services will not deny the existence of a relationship with a notary, service providers or often called service bureaus, claiming that in their collaboration with notaries where the role of notaries in this case is in the preparation of deeds of Establishment of Limited Liability Companies, Foundations, Cooperatives and others. The longer the problem turns out, the more that has not been resolved and the more websites that state their cooperation with notaries (Permadi, 2016).

As a notary, it is not allowed to cooperate with any party either individually or through a service bureau, as an example of the case above, a notary using his position as a notary to convince someone to smooth his affairs, and deliberately cooperating with someone promising a 2.5% fee, stating false information on his words, it is clear that the notary is not independent or independent. The prohibition of notaries cooperating with other parties is also clearly stated in article 4 number 4 of the Code of Ethics which can be interpreted that in the ethical and legal rules governing notary practice. When a notary may not cooperate with service bureaus, individuals, or legal entities that act as intermediaries to seek or obtain clients, it is intended to maintain the independence and integrity of the notary. In other words, notaries must act independently and neutrally in carrying out their duties, without being influenced by any party seeking or obtaining clients for them. This is important so that notaries can perform their duties with integrity and fairness, and avoid potential conflicts of interest or abuse of authority.

Instead, notaries must provide services to clients directly and without the intervention of third parties who act as intermediaries. On the other hand, there are still many notaries who work with brokers or marketers, for example, marketing from a housing developer so that by using the services of a notary to make a deed, when the marketing uses the services of a notary such as in carrying out the legal act of Sale and Purchase by making a Sale and Purchase Deed, then other arrangements such as SKMHT, APHT, for notaries who work with marketing from housing developers. marketing will get a fee or money for his services from each deed that has been made

by the notary at the time after the completion of the binding or the above process has been running or has been completed. Not only that, many notaries have social media which causes notaries to be able to promote themselves as notaries, indirectly notaries post activities carried out including the making of deeds, this social media also becomes an intermediary for notaries in conducting promotional media, such as for example in Facebook, Instagram, Tiktok and Google maps.

Based on research conducted by Selvi Andriani (Andriani, 2024), this study discusses the prohibition of self-promotion for notaries in the Code of Ethics for Notaries, which still has unclear legal limitations, particularly in the context of social media such as TikTok. The research found that many notaries continue to engage in direct or indirect promotions, while the enforcement of regulations remains weak due to regulatory gaps and ineffective sanctions. The main obstacles in the implementation of this code of ethics include weak legal substance, lack of oversight by the Honorary Council of Notaries, and cultural factors such as nepotism and a consumptive lifestyle. Subsequently, in research conducted by Cut Novadilla Halid (Halid et al., 2023), the study discusses the prohibition of self-promotion for notaries in the Code of Ethics for Notaries (KEN) and the Notary Position Law (UUJN), which is still frequently violated, especially through social media and flower boards. The research found that although there are sanctions in the Code of Ethics for Notaries, weak oversight by the Notary Supervisory Board results in lax enforcement of these rules. Consequently, many notaries continue to promote themselves without clear consequences, risking the credibility of the notary profession as a public official. Lastly, in research conducted by Yusifa Nur Annisa (Annisa et al., 2024), this study analyzes the legal status of joint offices in notarial civil partnerships based on Article 20 of UUJN-P, which still faces ambiguity as it is equated with the concept of civil partnerships in the Civil Code. The removal of Article 20 paragraph (3) creates uncertainty in the regulations regarding the establishment and operation of joint offices for notaries, while the appropriate form of business entity is still being debated. Therefore, a revision of the regulations is needed to provide a clearer definition and detailed ethical guidelines and procedures to ensure that joint notary offices operate in accordance with professional principles.

Reflecting on the research that has been explained above, the regulations regarding the independence of Notaries in carrying out their duties as Notaries must be clearly stated in the Notary Code of Ethics so that the position of Notary can be maximally executed without violating the rules established in the UUJN (Law on Notaries) or the Notary Code of Ethics. Based on the above description, the researcher will conduct research on What are the meanings and limitations in the principle of independence or independence of notaries applied in carrying out their duties and responsibilities based on applicable laws and regulations? And What are the impacts that arise if the Notary is not independent in carrying out the Notary position in accordance with Article 16 of Law Number 30 of 2004 concerning Notary Position?

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses the normative juridical research method in its preparation. The normative juridical research method is an approach in legal research that uses the analysis of literature or secondary data by applying deductive methods in thinking. In this approach, researchers draw specific conclusions based on general premises that have been proven true. This method uses qualitative analysis to investigate legal norms found in legislation (Marzuki, 2019). In this study, the author uses the Statutory Approach, Conceptual Approach, and Case Approach. The Statutory Approach is done by reviewing and examining all related laws and regulations that fall within the legal issue category focused on in this research (Diantha, 2016).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. The meaning and limitations of the principle of independence or independence of notaries applied in carrying out their duties and responsibilities based on applicable laws and regulations

The meaning of Notary according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) is a person who gets power from the government to authorize and witness various agreements, wills, deeds and so on. Notary is a state official or public official appointed by the state to carry out state duties in terms of legal services to the public which aims to achieve legal certainty as an official making authentic deeds in civil matters. Meanwhile, notary in English is called notary, while in Dutch it is called van notaris. Notaries have a very important role in legal traffic, especially in the field of civil law, because notaries are public officials who have the authority to make deeds and other authorities. Based on this understanding, a notary serves as a public official who is authorized to make authentic deeds and has other powers as specified by the UUJN, the Revised UUJN and other laws and regulations (Kholidah et al., 2023). In comparison, UUJN and UUJN Amendment have a broader formulation than PJN, (Anand, 2018) but both have the same intention about Notary, which is a public official authorized to make authentic deeds.

Notary is a public official, Notary can be seen as a figure that is very important and needed by the community because the information contained in the Notary deed must be trusted, reliable, can provide guarantees as strong evidence, and can provide legal protection for the community. In order for a writing to have the weight value of an authentic deed whose form is determined by law, it carries logical consequences, that public officials who carry out the making of authentic deeds must also be regulated by law (Sjaifurrachman & Adjie, 2011). The task of notaries is to provide assistance in making authentic deeds. And so, so it is important for a notary to have to understand the various provisions regulated by law so that the general public who do not know or understand the rules of law, can understand correctly and not do things that are contrary to the law (Andasasmita, 1983).

The role of a notary is to ensure certainty, order and legal protection which requires evidence that determines clearly and definitely between the rights and obligations of a person as a legal subject in an agreement, by issuing an authentic deed made before him related to legal status which functions as the most perfect and strongest evidence in court in the event of a dispute, so that what is stated in the authentic deed is basically considered correct (Zulhendrawan, 2010). The importance of the role of notaries can also be seen from their capacity to provide legal advice, and verify an agreement, whether an agreement has been made in accordance with the rules of making a correct agreement and does not harm one of the parties or the agreement is made ineligible (Sjaifurracman, 2011). Likewise, the Notary profession requires both individual and social responsibility, especially adherence to positive legal norms and willingness to comply with the professional code of ethics, which is even mandatory so that it will strengthen existing positive legal norms (Tedjosaputro, 1995).

In the Indonesian legal system, notaries play an important role as public officials who have the authority to make authentic deeds and carry out other duties as stipulated in Law Number 30 of 2004 concerning Notary Offices, which was later updated through Law Number 2 of 2014 (UUJN). Notaries are tasked with providing legal certainty, legal protection, and justice to the public through the making of authentic deeds. In carrying out these duties, there is a fundamental principle that must be upheld by every notary, namely the principle of independence. The independence of a notary refers to the ability to carry out their duties and authority free from intervention, pressure, or influence from other parties. This is so that the notary can be objective, impartial, and always maintain integrity in serving interested parties. The principle of independence is not only an ethical foundation in the notary profession, but also a legal obligation that is expressly regulated in various laws and regulations.

The importance of notary independence can be seen from his position as a public official

who is mandated to create legal documents that have perfect evidentiary power. In other words, deeds made by notaries not only reflect the will of the parties, but also provide legal legitimacy that can be used in various legal processes. Therefore, the independence of a notary is an absolute requirement to maintain public trust in the legal system (Tobing, 1996). However, in practice, this principle of independence often faces various challenges. Pressure from interested parties, conflicts of interest, lack of public understanding of notarial duties, and competition in the profession are some of the obstacles that can threaten the independence of a notary. Therefore, a discussion on notary independence is very relevant to ensure that notaries can carry out their duties professionally and responsibly.

The independence of a notary has two dimensions, namely the functional dimension and the ethical dimension, namely: the first is the functional dimension refers to the technical and administrative aspects of the duties and obligations of a notary in carrying out the office (SINAGA, 2019). This includes how a notary performs its functions in accordance with the authority granted by law without being influenced by outside parties or personal interests. Functional Dimension In the functional dimension, independence refers to the notary's ability to perform his or her duties in accordance with the authority granted by law, without being influenced by personal interests, third parties, or social pressure. The notary must be able to act in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations, as well as fulfill the responsibility to ensure that every deed he/she makes is legally valid, does not harm any party, and no manipulative actions are taken, whether intentionally or not. Independence in this function requires that notaries are not trapped in roles that can damage their credibility, for example by mixing personal interests with their professional duties.

The existence of this Notary position is determined by the rule of law which aims to support and serve people who need written evidence that has an authentic nature about the state of events or legal acts, substantively a notarial deed can be a situation, event or legal action that the parties want to be stated in the form of an authentic deed and used as evidence and based on statutory regulations that certain legal actions must be made in the form of an authentic deed (Adjie, 2017). Andi Prajitno argues that Notary is an independent or independent public official, namely the right to organize, determine the office, both in the form of location and building and employees of the amount of salary, not depending on other officials or institutions. If there is the term "Public", then what is meant by public here means that this official serves the general public in terms of making various or many types of authentic deeds related to the field of civil law and has not been delegated to other officials and requested by the interested general public to be stated in the form of an authentic deed, the law requires that the deed in authentic form is the authority of the Notary (Prajitno, 2018).

The notary only regulates the explanation and information of the parties, and is stated in the deed so that it has authenticity value. The function of a Notary is to serve the general public in the field of civil law, not in the field of public law. Thus, the main function of a Notary is to regulate all legal relationships between parties who need his services in writing and authentically, at the will of the parties or based on the law (Adjie & Sesung, 2020). Notaries have a neutral and impartial position in carrying out their duties, meaning that the Notary is outside the parties to the legal relationship and not as one of the parties (Setiawan, 1993).

The meaning of independent in this case is about the freedom of Public Officials from the influence of other parties. The term "independence" comes from the root word "self" which begins with "to" and ends with "an". Independence is born from the word "self", independence cannot be separated from the discussion about the development of the self itself. In Carl Rogers' concept, it is called the self, because the self is the essence of independence. Independence shows a belief in one's own ability to solve problems without help from other parties (Desmita, 2014). An independent personality can solve the problems faced, be able to make their own decisions, take the initiative and be creative without ignoring the surrounding environment. According to some

experts, "independence" means psychosocial abilities that include the freedom to act independently, not depending on the abilities of others, not being influenced by the environment and being free to manage their own needs. Watson states that independence means the freedom to take initiative, overcome obstacles, do things right, be enterprising, and do things on one's own without relying on the help of others (Nurhayati, 2011). Bernadib states that independence includes taking initiative, being able to solve problems, having self-confidence, doing something on your own without depending on others.

Quoted by A. A. Andi Prajitno in his book that in a scientific lecture by MJA Mourik in Jakarta on "The Effect of Globalization on Common Law and Civil Law", said that the essential characteristic of Notary in the civil law system is independent and impartial." Then Wawan Setiawan's opinion about Notary in Indonesia is "So Notary is not a government organ (executive) nor is it a judicial or legislative organ. Notaries are not under the influence of the powers of the three agencies. The core of the Notary's duties is to regulate in writing and authentically the legal relationships between the parties who consensually request Notary services" (Prajitno, 2018). The independence or independence in question is a Notary as a public official who is free from the intervention or influence of other parties, other parties referred to in Notary cooperation here are persons or legal entities related to the Notary providing his services as a public official.

B. Impacts Caused If Notary is Not Independent or Independent In Carrying Out His Position In Accordance With Applicable Laws

The notary profession is one of the important elements in the legal system in Indonesia. As public officials appointed by the state, notaries have a central role in providing legal certainty to the public through the making of authentic deeds. Deeds made by notaries have perfect evidentiary power in the eyes of the law, so the existence of notaries is an important pillar in maintaining legal, economic and social stability. To carry out this role, a notary is granted various rights and authorities attached to his/her position, as stipulated in Law Number 2 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 30 of 2004 concerning Notary Position (UUJN). These rights aim to provide a legal basis and protection to notaries so that they can carry out their duties professionally, independently, and are not affected by pressure or intervention from any party. On the other hand, notaries are also burdened with a series of obligations that must be carried out in accordance with the law and professional code of ethics. These obligations bind the notary to act honestly, neutrally, and maintain the interests of all interested parties impartially.

The rights and obligations attached to notaries aim to create a balance between the authority they have and the responsibilities they must fulfill. With rights, notaries are given protection and flexibility to carry out their duties in accordance with the principles of independence and independence, while obligations ensure that these duties are carried out ethically, professionally, and in accordance with applicable legal regulations. This is important to maintain public trust in the notary profession and ensure that the services provided are in accordance with the principles of justice and legal certainty.

However, these rights and obligations not only impact the performance of daily duties, but are also closely related to the concept of independence and independence of notaries in carrying out their duties. Independence means that a notary must be able to act free from pressure or influence from outside parties, including clients, institutions, or other parties with certain interests. Meanwhile, independence requires the notary to act neutrally, without partiality, and prioritize the interests of the law above all else. A notary is a public official who is authorized by the state to make authentic documents that have legal force, such as deeds of agreement, deeds of establishment of legal entities, deeds of wills, and other documents as stipulated in Law Number 2 of 2014 on the Amendment to Law Number 30 of 2004 on the Office of Notary (UUJN). To carry out these duties, notaries are granted various rights as well as required to comply with a

series of legal and ethical responsibilities that maintain the integrity of their profession.

These rights and obligations are designed so that notaries can perform their duties independently and autonomously, so that there is no intervention, pressure, or influence from any party that could interfere with the performance of their duties. The following is a more detailed description of the rights and obligations of a notary linked to the concepts of independence and self-reliance, and their impact. A notary is granted a number of rights inherent to his or her position, such as the right to receive honorarium, the right to maintain confidentiality, and the right to refuse requests to make deeds that violate the law. On the other hand, notaries also have various obligations, such as maintaining the confidentiality of deeds, acting honestly and impartially, and complying with the professional code of ethics. These rights and obligations not only aim to maintain the professionalism of notaries but also to ensure that notaries can carry out their duties in accordance with the principles of independence and independence.

Independence and independence are two key principles that notaries must maintain in carrying out their duties. Independence means that the notary must be free from pressure, intervention, or influence from any party, including clients, institutions, or the government. Independence, on the other hand, refers to the notary's ability to act neutrally, without favoring either party, and still prioritizing the interests of the law above all else. These principles are designed to ensure that every deed made by a notary is not only legally valid but also reflects fairness and integrity.

The rights and obligations held by notaries are explicitly regulated in the UUJN. These two aspects complement each other to create a balance between the powers granted to notaries and the responsibilities they must fulfill. In the context of independence and autonomy, the rights granted to notaries protect them from intervention or pressure from outside parties, while the obligations ensure that the duties are carried out with professionalism, fairness, and in accordance with the law.

The notary profession has a very important role in the legal system in Indonesia, namely as a public official authorized to make authentic deeds. Deeds made by notaries become strong and valid legal evidence in the eyes of the law, so as to provide legal certainty for interested parties. Therefore, notaries must carry out their positions by upholding the principles of independence and independence as mandated in Law Number 2 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 30 of 2004 concerning Notary Offices (UUJN).

Independence means that the notary must be free from pressure or influence from outside parties, including clients, third parties, or certain institutions. Meanwhile, independence requires the notary to act neutrally, fairly, and impartially, so that every deed made reflects justice and legal certainty. This principle is the main foundation so that notaries can carry out their duties with integrity and professionalism

When a Notary commits a violation in carrying out his/her duties and positions, the Notary is threatened with sanctions as stipulated in Article 84 and Article 85 of the UUJN. Sanctions against Notaries are categorized into 2 (two), namely civil sanctions in the form of reimbursement of costs, compensation, and interest, which are the consequences that Notaries will receive for the demands of the confronters if the deed concerned only has evidentiary power as a deed under the hand or the deed becomes null and void, as specified in Article 84 of the UUJN. In addition to civil sanctions, administrative sanctions are also determined, namely in the form of verbal warnings, written warnings, temporary dismissal, respectful dismissal, to dishonorable dismissal, as specified in Article 85 of the UUJN.

Claims against Notaries in the form of reimbursement of costs, compensation and interest as a result of Notary deeds have evidentiary power as underhand deeds or null and void, based on the existence of a unique legal relationship between Notaries and the confronters in the form of unlawful acts, inaccuracy, inaccuracy and inaccuracy in administrative techniques and legal rules contained in the deed (Saputri & Hosein, 2023). And before the Notary is sentenced to civil

sanctions in the form of reimbursement of costs, compensation and interest, it must first be proven that there is a loss suffered, between the loss suffered and the violation or negligence of the Notary there is a causal relationship and the violation (act) or negligence is due to an error that can be accounted for by the Notary concerned.

Notaries are expected to perform their duties based on the principles of independence and self-reliance. These principles are the main foundation in the implementation of the notary position, as stipulated in Article 16 paragraph (1) letter a of Law Number 2 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 30 of 2004 concerning Notary Position (UUJN). The article states that notaries must act "honestly, independently, impartially, and safeguard the interests of the parties involved in legal acts." (RAHMATIKA, 2016).

Not only does this also cause difficulties in law enforcement, legal vagueness also makes it difficult to enforce the law against offending notaries. Without a clear definition, it is difficult for law enforcement officials or the Notary Honor Council (MKN) to determine whether or not a notary's actions violate the principle of independence. As a result, the examination process often relies on subjective viewpoints. Increased Disputes Involving Notaries Deeds made by notaries who are not independent often lead to legal disputes in the future. For example, a deed that is deemed to be in favor of one of the parties can be canceled by the court. Parties who feel aggrieved can sue the notary civilly for the losses suffered.

CONCLUSION

Notary independence can be seen from four aspects: institutional structure that stands outside government organizations, functional freedom in carrying out duties without intervention, independence in financial management, and autonomy in personnel administration. If these four aspects are fulfilled, the notary is considered to have full independence and only acts based on the request of the parties without having their own will in making the deed. An authentic deed made by a notary has the highest evidentiary power according to Article 1868 of the Civil Code, provided that it fulfills the form prescribed by law and is made by an authorized official. The role of an authentic deed is very important in public legal relations as legal evidence.

The absence of a clear definition of notary independence and self-reliance leads to different interpretations, opening up opportunities for violations such as gratuities, impartiality, or abuse of authority. This creates legal vagueness that makes enforcement difficult and makes decisions often dependent on the subjective viewpoint of the Notary Honor Council (MKN). Deeds made without independence often trigger legal disputes, such as deed annulment or civil lawsuits. These disputes not only harm the parties involved but also put a burden on the judicial system.

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