

Mediation Position based on Supreme Court Regulation No. 1 of 2016 concerning Procedure for Mediation in the Religious Courts

Mardalena Hanifah^{a*}, Yaswirman^b, Sukanda Husin^c, Rembrandt^d,
^aLecturer of Faculty of law, University of Riau, Pekanbaru, Indonesia,
^{b,c,d}Faculty of law, University of Andalas, Padang, Indonesia, Email:
^{a*}aniklidya@gmail.com, ^byas_gadutbogor@yahoo.co.id,

Mediation is a way of resolving disputes through the negotiation process to obtain agreement between the parties assisted by a mediator. To achieve a fair final outcome, without wasting too much cost, it remains effective and fully accepted by both parties in a voluntary dispute. Article 2 Supreme Court Regulation No. 1 of 2016 concerning Procedure for Mediation in Courts should not be ignored and it should be considered by various parties, because the legal consequences are that the decision is null and void if it does not carry out a mediation procedure. The court, which has been impressed as a law enforcement and justice institution, now appears as an institution seeking a peaceful solution for the parties. Settlement of cases with mediation currently practiced in the courts has special characteristics, when cases are registered in the court connected mediation. Mediation efforts will certainly also benefit the court because the use of mediation is expected to overcome the problem of case accumulation. Implementation of Supreme Court Regulation Number 1 of 2016 concerning Mediation Procedures in Courts, can be an attempt to resolve cases in the Religious Courts mediation is the main choice, because it can negotiate the wishes of the parties by means of “peace”. Because after all the fairness of the verdict, but it will be better and more just results of peace. The fairest of decisions handed down by judges will be deemed and felt fair by the winning party. As with peace, the results of sincere peace based on mutual agreement from the disputing parties are free from win and lose qualifications. They both win and both lose or win-win solution, so that both parties recover in harmony and brotherhood.

Key words: *Position, Mediation, Religious Courts.*

Background

The mediator is a judge or other party who has a mediator certificate. The mediator as a neutral party resolves disputes through a negotiation process that assists the parties in finding various possibilities for dispute resolution without using a method of deciding or forcing a settlement (one who arranges meetings between two or more parties in dispute) to achieve a fair outcome, without wasting costs which is too large, but still effective and fully accepted by both parties to the dispute voluntarily. Mediation as a method of peaceful dispute resolution has a great opportunity to develop in Indonesia.

Mediation not only benefits the parties to the dispute, but also provides some benefits to the world of justice. First, the use of mediation is expected to overcome the problem of accumulation of cases that are submitted to the court.¹ The number of settlement cases through mediation, by itself will reduce the accumulation of cases in court. Second, the small number of cases submitted to the court will facilitate supervision if there is a delay or intentionality to slow the examination of a case for a certain purpose that is not commendable. Third, the mediation process is seen as a way of resolving disputes that is faster and cheaper than the process of deciding by a judge.²

The requirement to conduct mediation in civil cases that go to court is one of the interesting provisions of Article 3 of the Supreme Court Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 1 of 2016 concerning Procedure for Mediation in Courts. These provisions must not be ignored and need to be considered by various parties because the legal consequences are that the decision is null and void if it does not carry out a mediation procedure based on the Republic of Indonesia Supreme Court Regulation Number 1 of 2016 concerning Mediation Procedures in the Court.³

Supreme Court Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 1 of 2016 concerning Mediation Procedures in the Court there have been fundamental changes in the practice of justice in Indonesia. The court is not only tasked with examining, adjudicating, and resolving the cases it receives, but also trying to reconcile the parties. The court, which has been impressed as a law enforcement and justice institution, now appears as an institution seeking peaceful solutions for the parties.⁴

¹ Takdir Rahmadi, *Mediasi Penyelesaian Sengketa Melalui Pendekatan Mufakat*, PT RajaGrafindo Persada, Jakarta, 2010, p. 143.

² *Ibid.* p. 144.

³ *Ibid.* p. 154

⁴ Dedi Afandi, "Mediasi : Alternatif Penyelesaian Sengketa Medis", *Jurnal Ilmu Kedokteran*, Fakultas Kedokteran Universitas Riau, Vol. 59, No. 5 Mei 2009, p. 190.

Divorce itself means the abolition of marriage with the judge's decision or the demands of one of the parties in the marriage.⁵ Judging from the aspect of divorce actors, divorce is divided into two, first, divorce by the husband, namely divorce committed by the husband against the wife. Second, divorce by a wife is a divorce done by a wife by submitting a divorce request to a Religious Court, divorce cannot occur before the Religious Court decides officially.

The basic understanding of mediation and its benefits is still not optimal, many people in the mediation process only meet with third parties as mediators, but they do not see any more benefits from the mediation process, so understanding the mediation becomes very important. The process of providing an understanding of the benefits of settlement of cases through mediation should be carried out maximally so that the community gets an understanding and knowledge of the importance of case resolution through mediation with the help of mediators in accordance with the mandate of Supreme Court Regulation No. 1 of 2016 concerning Mediation Procedures Court.

The act of the judge in reconciling the parties to the dispute is to stop the dispute and strive for divorce not to occur. The judge who has a stake in seeking peace is the judge in the divorce case when the court case begins, while the mediator is a judge appointed by the panel of judges to seek peace for the parties outside the court session based on the agreement of the parties. The mediator has a decisive role in a mediation process. The failure of mediation is also very much determined by the role shown by the mediator. The mediator plays an active role in bridging a meeting between the parties.

The tasks of the mediator are regulated in Article 14 of the Supreme Court Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 1 of 2016 concerning Procedure for Mediation in the Court which states that:

- 1) The mediator must prepare a proposal for a mediation meeting schedule to the parties to be discussed and agreed.
- 2) The mediator must encourage the parties to directly play a role in the mediation process.
- 3) If deemed necessary, the mediator can conduct a caucus.
- 4) The mediator must encourage the parties to explore and explore their interests and look for the best choices for the parties.

Mediation if implemented effectively is certainly very beneficial for the parties to the dispute or disputes, especially in the case of divorce, because with this realization the judiciary indirectly also helps in realizing the goals of marriage that are *sakinah, mawaddah, warrahmah* and eternal.

⁵ Subekti, *Pokok-Pokok Hukum Perdata*, PT Intermasa, Jakarta, 2003, p. 42.

Discussion

Etymologically, the term mediation comes from Latin, *mediare* which means being in the middle. The meaning that refers to the role displayed by a third party as a mediator in carrying out their duties is mediating and resolving disputes between the parties. "Being in the middle" also means that the mediator must be in a neutral and impartial position in resolving disputes. He must be able to protect the interests of the parties to the dispute fairly and equally so as to foster the trust of the parties to the dispute.⁶

According to Takdir Rahmadi, mediation is a process of dispute resolution between two or more parties through negotiations or a method of consensus with the help of neutral parties who do not have the authority to decide. The neutral party is called a mediator with the task of providing procedural and substantial assistance.⁷ Understanding mediation according to Jimmy Joses Sembiring that mediation is the process of resolving disputes with third parties, namely parties that provide input to the parties to resolve disputes.⁸

The meaning of mediation according to legislation can be found concretely in Article 1 Paragraph (1) of the Supreme Court Regulation Number 1 of 2016 concerning Procedure for Mediation in Courts. Mediation is a way of resolving disputes through the negotiation process to obtain agreement between the parties assisted by a mediator. The mediator is a judge or other party who has a mediator certificate as a neutral party that helps the parties in the negotiation process to find various possibilities for dispute resolution without using a way to decide or force a settlement. This is contained in Article 1 Paragraph (2) of the Supreme Court Regulation Number 1 of 2016 concerning Procedure for Mediation in Courts.

In the effort of peace, the first step that must be carried out by the judge in conducting a peace session to the parties in dispute is to hold peace to the parties to the dispute. Then the judge in reconciling the litigant parties is in line with the teachings of Islam. The teachings of Islam ordered that the settlement of any disputes between humans should be carried out by means of peace (*islah*). This provision is in line with the word of Allah SWT in Al-Quran Surah Al-Hujarat Verse (9) which reads "Verily the believers are brothers and sisters, so reconcile your two brothers and fear Allah so that you may receive mercy." Believers fight then reconcile them, peace should be done fairly and rightly because God loves people who are fair.⁹

⁶ Mardalena Hanifah, "Kajian Yuridis Mediasi sebagai Alternatif Penyelesaian Sengketa Perdata di Pengadilan", *Jurnal HAPER*, Vol 2, No. 1 Januari- Juni 2016, p. 3

⁷ Takdir Rahmadi, *Op.cit.*, p.12-13.

⁸ Jimmy Joses Sembiring, *Cara Menyelesaikan Sengketa Di Luar Pengadilan*, Visimedia, Jakarta, 2011, p.27.

⁹ Abdul Manan, *Penerapan Hukum Acara Perdata Di Lingkungan Peradilan Agama*, Kencana Prenada Media, Jakarta, 2005, p.151.

Mediation Objectives and Benefits

Mediation is a form of alternative dispute resolution outside the court. The purpose of mediation is to resolve disputes between parties by involving neutral and impartial third parties. Mediation can lead the parties to the realization of a permanent and sustainable peace agreement. Since the dispute settlement through mediation places both parties in the same position, nothing is won and the one that is defeated (win-win solution).

The main model of dispute resolution is the desire and good faith of the parties to end their dispute. This desire and good faith sometimes requires the help of a third party in its realization. Mediation is one form of dispute resolution involving a third party, mediation can provide benefits including:

1. Mediation is expected to be able to resolve disputes quickly and is relatively cheaper than bringing the dispute to a court or arbitration institution.
2. Mediation will focus the attention of the parties on their interests in real and on their emotional or psychological needs so that mediation is not only directed at their legal rights.
3. Mediation provides opportunities for parties to participate directly and informally in resolving their disputes.
4. Mediation gives the parties the ability to control the process and results.
5. Mediation can change results, which in litigation and arbitration are difficult to predict, with certainty through consensus.
6. Mediation provides results that stand test and will be able to create better mutual understanding among the parties to the dispute because they themselves decide.
7. Mediation is able to eliminate conflict or hostility which almost always accompanies any coercive decision imposed by a judge in the court or arbitrator at the arbitration institution.¹⁰

Mediation also has many advantages for the parties, as stated by Achmad Ali. The advantages of using mediation are:

1. Fast process: the disputes most often handled by public mediation centers can be resolved by examinations that only last two to three weeks.
2. It is confidential: everything that is said during a mediation examination is confidential in that it is not attended by the public and there is also no press covering it.
3. Not expensive: some public mediation centers provide free or at least very cheap quality services, lawyers are not needed in the mediation process.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, p.25-26.

4. Fair: the solution to a dispute can be tailored to the needs of each party. Legal precedents will not be applied in cases examined by mediation.
5. Successful: in four of the five cases that reached the mediation stage, the two parties to the dispute achieved the desired results.¹¹

Mediator Functions, Tasks and Roles

Fuller and Riskin and Westbrook mention the 7 functions of the mediator, namely, as catalysts, educators, resource person translators, bearers of bad news, agent of reality, and scapegoat.¹²

1. As a "catalyst" it means that the presence of mediators in the negotiation process is able to encourage the birth of a constructive atmosphere for discussion.
2. As an "educator" means someone must try to understand the aspirations, work procedures, and business constraints of the parties. Therefore, he must try to involve himself in the dynamics of differences between the parties.
3. As a "translator" means the mediator must try to convey and formulate the proposal of one party to another party through good language or expression without reducing the objectives achieved by the proposer.
4. As a "resource person" means a mediator must utilize available information resources.
5. As "bad news" means a mediator must realize that the parties in the negotiation process can be emotional. For this reason, the mediator must hold separate meetings with relevant parties to accommodate various proposals.
6. As a "reality agent" means the mediator must try to give a clear understanding to one of the parties that the target is impossible / unreasonable to be reached through negotiations.
7. As a "scapegoat" means a mediator must be prepared to be blamed, for example in making agreements on the results of negotiations.

The tasks of the mediator are regulated in Article 15 of the Supreme Court Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 1 of 2008 concerning Procedure for Mediation in Courts which states that:

- 1) The mediator must prepare a proposal for a mediation meeting schedule to the parties to be discussed and agreed upon.
- 2) The mediator must encourage the parties to directly play a role in the mediation process.
- 3) If deemed necessary, the mediator can conduct a caucus.

¹¹ Mardalena Hanifah, "Mediasi merupakan Penyelesaian Sengketa Terbaik dalam Sengketa Perdata di Pengadilan", *Kompilasi Materi Plenary Session dan Abstrak Pararel Session Konferensi Nasional HAPER, Fakultas Hukum Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya 25-28 Agustus 2015*, p. 8

¹² Leonard L. Riskin and James E. Westbrook, in Suyud Margono's book, *ibid.* p. 60.

- 4) The mediator must encourage the parties to explore and explore their interests and look for the best choices for the parties.

The mediator has a very important role in achieving a peace agreement between the parties to the dispute. D. Y. Witanto said that mediators have several important roles including:

1. Make a diagnosis of conflict;
2. Identify problems and critical interests;
3. Arrange an agenda;
4. Streamlining and controlling communication;
5. Teach parties in bargaining processes and skills;
6. Helping parties collect important information;
7. Problem solving to achieve choices;
8. Dispute diagnosis to facilitate problem solving.¹³

The mediator can be classified into two types, namely:

1. Mediator in the court environment

The mediator in the court environment is a mediator in a court mediator, therefore in each court a list of mediators is required. A list of mediators is a document that contains the names of mediators and a list of mediators is set forth in the determination of the head of the court. Thus, the list of mediators contains a panel of mediator members who can be chosen or appointed to act as mediators in resolving disputes.

2. Mediators outside the court environment

In addition to the mediators listed in the list of mediators found in the court environment, there are also mediators outside the court environment. Mediators outside the court are mediators who are not listed as panels in the list of mediators determined by the head of the court.¹⁴

Settlement of Divorced Cases by the Mediator

Based on the theory of legal effectiveness proposed by Soerjono Soekanto, the effectiveness of a law is determined by an abstract conception of what is considered good so that it is obeyed and what is considered bad so it is not obeyed.

1. Qualification of the Mediator

¹³ D. Y. Witanto, *Hukum Acara Mediasi: Dalam Perkara Perdata di Lingkungan Peradilan Umum dan Peradilan Agama menurut PERMA No.1 Tahun 2008 Tentang Prosedur Mediasi di Pengadilan*, Alfabeta, Bandung, 2010, hlm.102.

¹⁴ M. Yahya Harahap, *Op.cit*, p.245-246.

The mediator has a very important role in the success of mediation. Therefore, mediators must have good capacity so that the mediation process can run smoothly and in accordance with the procedures set out in the Republic of Indonesia Supreme Court Regulation Number 1 of 2016 concerning Procedure for Mediation in Courts. Ideally the Indonesian Supreme Court needs to provide mediator training to all judges in court, to:¹⁵

- a. Mediator judges can work optimally when conducting mediation. If you have received training, it is hoped that later the mediator judges will have the ability according to the function and role of the mediator.
- b. Mediation is expected to work effectively because trained mediators are able to organize the mediation process well.
- c. Increase the knowledge of judges in conducting mediation. Mediator judges will have programmed techniques. The task of the mediator is different from the duty of the judge during the trial process, if in the trial process the judge is very guarding the dignity and dignity of the judge, when being a mediator the judge must be communicative and not rigid because it functions as a mediator.

2. Facilities

The provisions of the Supreme Court provide the facilities needed for the mediation process. It is expected that by providing the mediation space and arranging it as well as possible the parties to the dispute will feel more comfortable.

3. Community Compliance and Understanding

Regarding community compliance, based on the research that has been done, it can be concluded that the attitudes and behavior of the parties during the mediation process affect the compliance of the parties in undergoing the mediation process, as follows :

- a. Parties who do not have an understanding / do not know whether the mediation, the rights and obligations of the parties, the purpose and usefulness of mediation, influence the success rate of mediation.
- b. The parties have long separated so that communication between them has long been interrupted.
- c. The conflict that has dragged on caused both parties to have no good faith to make peace.
- d. Before entering the court hearing in the court, the parties agreed to break the marital ties so that when mediated, it was difficult and even failed to reconcile.

4. Culture

¹⁵ Soerjono Soekanto, *Faktor-Faktor yang Mempengaruhi Penegakan Hukum*, Raja Grafindo, 2007, p.7.

First is the shift in value. At this time marriage is no longer considered sacred and divorce is no longer a taboo thing to do. Second is to leave responsibility. This is because one of the parties or both parties are not responsible for their obligations such as physical and physical livelihood, both of them have a busy career, the placement of compliance is not in place. Third is marriage at an early age. In general, it occurs because of an arranged marriage or forced by a second parent, which then creates a lot of disharmony between the couple. The fourth is one of the parties sentenced to a criminal sentence. Fifth is a biological defect. One party has a physical disability that cannot be cured.

Symptoms of increasing divorce rates in the Religious Courts can be influenced by the following:

- a. Muslim society's perception of divorce considers that divorce is a lawful act even though it is hated by Allah SWT.
- b. Social pressure for divorce actors slackens. In the past there was an oblique impression for men / women who broke marital ties with their partners.
- c. Increasing quality of education for the community, especially women. So the wife with higher education if divorced by her husband no longer worries about living herself and her children.

Barriers for Mediators in Settling Divorce Cases in the Religious Courts

The success and failure of mediation is strongly influenced by supporting factors and obstacles during the mediation process. The following are the inhibiting factors for mediation success

- a. **Strong Desires of Parties to Divorce**
Often when one of the parties is mediated, both of them even have a very strong desire to divorce. The parties consider that the Religious Courts are a place for divorce and are a last resort, not a place to find solutions or advice to people who have knowledge and understanding in the field of marriage.
- b. **Prolonged and very complicated conflicts have occurred**
In such cases the conflict between the parties has taken place too long to become very complicated, so that during the mediation the parties cannot reduce their emotions. The parties can no longer receive input from the mediator and feel that the party is the most correct.
- c. **Circumstances where Parties Cannot Be Reunited**
This condition is often an obstacle for mediators to reconcile both parties. Deep disappointment caused the plaintiff to not want to be reunited and continue his marriage ties so that there was no choice but to end his marriage.
- d. **Mediator Ability**

The mediator must have the ability to manage conflict and communicate so that it can seek the meeting point between the parties. Therefore, the ability of a mediator will influence the success of mediation.

e. Spirituality and Morality

Spirituality in this case is a lack of basic knowledge about religion. The parties consider that divorce is permissible even though it is hated by Allah SWT. The bad behavior of the parties towards the couple makes one of the parties do not want to get back together because if they are back in marriage they will make their life worse.

f. Sociological and Psychological Factors

Sociological factors at the present time are many women who already have regular jobs and good income, so the tendency to part with their husbands is stronger because there is no concern for lack of income for themselves and their children.

g. Third party

When the mediation process the mediator will try to reconcile the parties, this will be difficult if there has been a third party's interference. Third parties in terms of divorce can come from family or outside parties, such as the absence of support from the family so that the parties return to referral. Intervention of third parties is like the existence of another ideal woman.

Conclusion

Based on the results of this study, the conclusions are:

1. The role of the mediator in the Religious Court has not been effective with the following factors:
 - a. The mediator judges have carried out the mandate of the Indonesian Supreme Court Regulation Number 1 of 2016 concerning Procedure for Mediation in the Court but have not been effective from the results due to facilities, community compliance and culture.
 - b. The ineffectiveness of judges who concurrently become mediators in terms of time is due to the large volume of cases while the number of judges is small.
 - c. The absence of evaluation and the absence of Supreme Court regulations regarding the success criteria of judges and incentives for judges who carry out the functions of mediators.
2. The obstacles for mediators in settling divorce cases in the Religious Courts are as follows:
 - a. A strong desire to divorce
 - b. There has been a long and very complicated conflict
 - c. Circumstances where parties cannot be reunited
 - d. Mediator ability



- e. The implementation of mediation is too short
- f. Spirituality and morals
- g. Sociological factors and psychological factors
- h. Third party

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