Legal Review of Adopted Children's Inheritance Rights from the Perspective of Civil Law in Indonesia

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Article Info
Received: 2022-10-10
Revised: 2023-01-21
Accepted: 2023-03-20

Keywords:
Legal Review, Inheritance Rights, Adopted Children, Civil Law

Abstract
Adopted children are often a complex subject in the inheritance law system, because of their position between two families, namely the biological family and the adoptive family. This research will examine the legal framework governing the inheritance rights of adopted children, evaluate conflicts that may arise between civil law and social practice, and offer legal solutions or recommendations that can balance the interests involved. This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. The research results show that adoption has a major impact on the position of adopted children's inheritance rights in civil law. Although the adoption process through the courts can provide stronger legal certainty regarding the inheritance rights of adopted children, there are variations in local legal provisions that influence the recognition and allocation of inheritance rights of adopted children. The importance of a clear and official legal process in regulating the status of adopted children is emphasized to ensure legal certainty and protection of their inheritance rights. Apart from that, gifts and wills also play an important role in the distribution of inheritance, but the calculation of legitimacy must be taken into account to ensure fairness in inheritance allocation. Thus, protection of the inheritance rights of adopted children needs to be strengthened by considering various legal aspects related to the inheritance process, to maintain justice, sustainability and peace in inherited families.

A. INTRODUCTION

The main purpose of marriage is often seen as an effort to continue offspring, however, not all husband and wife couples have the opportunity to have biological children (Munawar, 2015). To fill this void, many choose to adopt a child. In a legal context, this action is known as adoption. Adoption not only shows the desire to legally have children, but also reflects love and responsibility to provide a stable and pleasant environment for the adopted child (Munib, 2022).

Legislation in various countries regulates the process and legal consequences of adopting a child. In the civil law system, there are rules that legally regulate the relationship between adoptive parents and adopted children, including the rights and obligations of each party (Pudihang, 2015). However, even though legal rules have been established, their implementation does not always meet expectations. There are various problems that often arise related to adoption, such as conflicts of interest between biological parents and adoptive parents, as well as the inheritance rights of adopted children (Nanda & Mukri, 2018).

Adoption is an issue that receives serious attention in family law, both from the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Supreme Court. Not only focusing on administrative and social aspects, this attention also extends to the legal realm, especially when it comes to the inheritance rights of adopted children (Robot, 2016). Issues regarding the inheritance rights of adopted children often become a source of conflict, even resulting in trials in court. Therefore, the Supreme Court plays an important role by issuing relevant policies and decisions to handle related cases, ensuring that the rights of adopted children are protected and given fair treatment in the context of inheritance (Afifah & Lessy, 2014).

In handling cases related to the inheritance rights of adopted children, the legal steps taken by the Supreme Court are very crucial. A careful and precise legal approach is needed to provide legal certainty for all parties involved, as well as to ensure that justice is realized in resolving the problem (Djaja, 2018). By regulating and resolving issues relating to the inheritance rights of adopted children fairly and in accordance with the principles of justice, the Supreme Court contributes to strengthening legal protection for adopted children and promoting peace in the family environment (Dahlan & Reza, 2022).

Law no. 23 of 2002 concerning Adoption of Children, which was later revised through Law no. 35 of 2014, emphasizes the principle of the best interests of the child as the main basis in the process of adopting a child (Sirait, 2017). This principle places the best interests of the child as the main priority in all decisions involving children, including in the context of adoption. This shows the legal commitment to ensure that every decision taken regarding adopted children is based on considerations that take into account the needs, welfare and rights of the child (Fahlevi, 2015).

One important aspect related to the inheritance rights of adopted children is stated in Article 39 of the Child Protection Law (Bakry & Armas, 2018). This article explicitly states that adoption does not end the blood relationship between the adopted child and his biological parents. This means that even though a child is adopted by adoptive parents, the biological relationship with his biological parents is still legally maintained (Ibrahim, 2018). This shows the principle of continuity of the

relationship between children and their biological parents, which has important implications, especially in the context of inheritance rights. Thus, Article 39 provides a clear legal basis to ensure that adopted children continue to have their rights related to inheritance from their biological parents, as well as strengthening the legal position of adopted children in the civil law system in Indonesia (Fithri, 2017).

The Civil Code in Indonesia does not specifically regulate the inheritance rights of adopted children. However, in the context of inheritance law, adopted children can still receive a share of inheritance through a testamentary grant mechanism (Usman, 2013). Article 875 of the Civil Code confirms a person's right to make a will or testament containing a statement of his wishes regarding assets after death. In this case, adoptive parents can take advantage of this right to give a share of the inheritance to their adopted child (Pertiwi et al, 2023). However, it is important to note that when making a will, you must pay attention to the provisions regarding legal inheritance which are intended for legal heirs. This means that although adoptive parents can give a share to adopted children through a will, this share must not violate the legal inheritance rights of other heirs (Muthiah, 2019).

The history of legislation in the Netherlands also shows that the issue of inheritance rights for adopted children was specifically regulated, especially in Staatsblad No. 129 of 1917 which applies to Chinese groups (Firdiana, 2023). However, in the context of Indonesian civil law, resolution of adopted children's inheritance rights issues tends to use the principle of bequests as regulated in the Civil Code (Anshori, 2018). Thus, the available legal mechanisms allow adoptive parents to give a share of the inheritance to their adopted children, as long as they comply with the applicable provisions in making a will, including paying attention to the legal inheritance rights of other parties who are entitled to receive a share of the inheritance (Lusiana , 2022).

The main objective of this research is to examine the legal framework that regulates the inheritance rights of adopted children from a civil law perspective in Indonesia and to analyze the implications of the testamentary grant provisions in the Civil Code on the inheritance rights of adopted children. Thus, it is hoped that this research can provide a deeper understanding of the protection of the inheritance rights of adopted children in the Indonesian civil law system, offer a more comprehensive view of alternative solutions to the problem of adopted children's inheritance rights, and contribute to the development of more inclusive and fair policies for adopted children in the context of inheritance.

A. METHOD

To design this research with high relevance, the researcher adopted a normative legal research approach or Legal Research. This approach is carried out through searching and in-depth analysis of various library materials or documents that are ready to be used, such as laws, books and journals that are directly related to the problem being investigated (Diantha, 2016). In normative legal writing, the focus lies on the exploration and analysis of library materials or secondary data, which includes a variety of primary, secondary and tertiary legal materials. This approach allows researchers to gain a deep understanding of the existing legal framework, explore various points of view on the issue being researched, and produce solid findings based on legal literature and relevant documents that have been comprehensively analyzed. Thus, the normative legal research approach provides a strong foundation for building a better understanding of the issue of inheritance rights of adopted children in the context of civil law in Indonesia.

B. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Adoption of a child has a major impact on the position of the adopted child's inheritance rights towards his or her adoptive parents in the realm of civil law. As regulated in civil law, when someone is adopted as a child by another person, legally he becomes the child of his adoptive parents. In this context, the distribution of inherited assets automatically returns to the adoptive parents. However, the existence of an adopted child's inheritance rights does not only depend on the formal status of adoption, but can also be influenced by other factors such as the wishes and wisdom of the adoptive parents. In relation to civil law, adoptive parents have a moral and legal responsibility to ensure that their adopted children are given fair treatment in the distribution of inheritance, in line with the principles of justice and the best interests of the child (Karaluhe, 2016).

Therefore, it is important for adoptive parents to ensure a decent life for their adopted children after they die, so that the child's future is guaranteed. This includes preparing an inheritance plan that considers the needs and interests of adopted children proportionally. Apart from that, adoptive parents also need to ensure that the adoption or adoption of the child is legally recognized by law, so that the inheritance rights of the adopted child can be clearly recognized and protected. Thus, inheritance distribution becomes an integral part of adoptive parents' efforts to provide protection, support and stability for the future of adopted children, as well as to maintain harmony and justice in the inherited family (Rais, 2016).

In general society, upon the death of an adoptive parent, the adopted child is often given a share of the assets to ensure their survival, and this is often done through a will. A will is the final expression of a person's will before death, which contains

instructions regarding the distribution of inherited assets. This testamentary gift is an important instrument in the context of inheritance distribution, because it allows someone to determine the portion of assets that will be given to certain recipients, including adopted children. Apart from being a tool to ensure the survival of adopted children after the departure of their adoptive parents, bequests also reflect the emotional relationship and moral responsibility between both parties. This also shows that although civil law may not explicitly regulate the inheritance rights of adopted children, social practices and norms often play an important role in determining rights and obligations in the context of inheritance (Wulandari, 2018).

Article 875 of the Civil Code confirms that a will is a statement from a person regarding his wishes after he dies, which he can revoke while he is still alive. One form of implementing a will in inheritance is through appointment in a will, which is divided into two main types: appointment of heirs (erfstelling) and testamentary gift (legaat). A testamentary gift, as explained by J. Satrio in his book on Inheritance Law, is a gift through a will of part of the inheritance in the form of certain items (Muliana & Khisni, 2017)

Article 957 of the Civil Code explains that a testamentary gift is a special determination in which the heir gives to one or several people certain items, or all items of a certain type (Ahmad, 2022). For example, an heir can donate all movable or fixed assets, or grant usufructuary rights over some or all of his belongings to the beneficiary of a will. Through this will, the heir can give specific instructions regarding the distribution of inherited assets to certain recipients, which can include adopted children or other parties who are deemed entitled to receive a share of the inherited assets. Thus, a will provides a means for the heir to arrange in detail and specifically regarding the distribution of inherited assets, in accordance with the wishes and interests that he considers important.

With a will, the hope of adoptive parents is to ensure that their adopted children are provided with adequate protection and financial support after they pass away. In addition, testamentary gifts can also help avoid potential conflicts in inheritance distribution, because clear and detailed instructions in a will can reduce the possibility of disputes between heirs. Therefore, a testamentary gift is not only a means of conveying someone's last wishes, but is also an effective tool in maintaining the welfare and stability of the family, as well as strengthening the emotional bond between adoptive parents and their adopted children, even after their death (Kunadi & Cahyaningsih, 2020).

In the probate process, someone who basically has no legal right to receive a share of the inheritance, such as an adopted child, has a great opportunity to obtain it because of instructions left by the testator before he dies. In many cases, the heir has

the freedom to determine the recipient of the inheritance according to his wishes, without having to pay attention to any legal restrictions that may exist. For example, in the context of adoption, although civil law may not explicitly recognize the inheritance rights of adopted children, through a will, an heir can legally determine that his adopted child will receive part of the inheritance. Therefore, testamentary gifts provide an opportunity for individuals who may not legally fall into the category of legal heirs to still be recognized and appreciated for the contributions and emotional ties they have with the testator (Balaati, 2013).

The presence of testamentary gifts creates a new dynamic in inheritance distribution, where the wishes and wisdom of the testator have a strong influence on the allocation of inheritance assets. Although there are legal structures governing inheritance rights, wills provide space for testators to express their personal preferences and provide recognition to individuals who may not be formally recognized by law as heirs. Thus, a testamentary gift is not only a tool for inheriting material assets, but also a means of conveying messages, strengthening emotional relationships, and giving appreciation to individuals who are considered valuable by the testator, including adopted children.

In civil law, especially in the context of the distribution of inheritance through testamentary gifts, there are restrictions known as "Ligitime Portie" or "wettelijkerfdeel", which are regulated in detail in Articles 913-929 of the Civil Code. The "Ligitime Portie" concept aims to ensure that the majority of inherited assets must be allocated to the legal heirs in accordance with the provisions of the law. Typically, legal heirs include the testator's spouse and children. This limitation provides protection for legal heirs to obtain a fair and balanced share of inheritance, as well as preventing potential abuse or discrimination in the distribution of inherited assets.

In practice, this means that although an heir has the freedom to make a will and determine the portion of assets that will be given to certain recipients, this distribution must take into account "Ligitime Portie". This means that most of the inherited assets must still be allocated to the legal heirs, even if the testator wishes to give most or all of the assets to other recipients, such as adopted children. Thus, although a testamentary gift allows the heir to give a share of the inheritance to individuals such as adopted children, such allocation must be in accordance with the limitations established by civil law to ensure fairness and sustainability in the distribution of inheritance.

The creation of the Law that regulates Legitime Portie has a clear objective, namely to safeguard and provide protection to children from the tendency of the heir to provide greater benefits to other parties than to the children. The statement quoted from Asser Meyers, as conveyed in the book by Oemarsalim, highlights the

importance of justice in the distribution of inheritance. By regulating Legitime Portie, the Law aims to avoid the possibility of injustice or inequality in the distribution of inheritance which could harm children as the most vulnerable parties. This is in line with the principles of social justice and protection of children's rights, which are important cornerstones in the formation of legal policies that are fair and support the best interests of children. In this way, Legitime Portie not only creates a strong legal basis for protecting children's rights in the context of inheritance, but also becomes an important instrument in ensuring sustainability and fairness in the distribution of inherited assets in society.

Ligitime Portie, which is also known as the absolute share of inherited assets, is an allocation that must be given to heirs in a straight line according to civil law. Article 913 of the Civil Code expressly prohibits heirs from determining anything that could reduce or ignore the rights of heirs that have been determined by law, either through gifts or wills. Thus, Article 913 ensures that this absolute share must be guaranteed to heirs in a straight line position, including their children and descendants, as well as their parents and ancestors and above.

Article 916a of the Civil Code regulates the procedures that must be followed in calculating the legitieme portie in the context of a gift or will. According to this article, calculating the legitieme portie must be done first before considering the gift or will given. This article emphasizes that in calculating legitieme portie, it is necessary to pay attention to heirs who have rights based on death, but are not heirs according to law, such as adopted children or recipients of gifts or wills. If a gift or will is given to a party other than the intended heirs, in an amount that exceeds the share that the heirs should receive, then the amount of the gift must be reduced until it is equal to the permitted amount.

In practice, Article 916a establishes protection for heirs who are entitled to receive legitieme portie, whether they are direct heirs or those who have the right to inheritance due to death but are not heirs according to law. This article confirms that the amount of the gift that exceeds the permitted limit must be deducted, and claims for this must be made by or for the benefit of the heirs who are entitled to receive the legitieme portie and their heirs or their successors. Thus, this article maintains balance in the distribution of inheritance, ensuring that the rights of heirs are protected and are not harmed by excessive gifts or bequests.

In a practical context, this prohibition aims to protect the interests of heirs in the direct line of descent from potential abuse or neglect of their rights in inheritance distribution. This reflects the principle of justice in civil law, which emphasizes protecting the best interests of heirs who legally have clear claims to inherited assets. Thus, Ligitime Portie not only establishes guaranteed rights for heirs in a straight line,

but also acts as a tool to ensure that inheritance distribution is carried out fairly and in accordance with applicable legal provisions, avoiding abuse or discrimination in the process. .

In the context of inheritance, it is important to consider the balance between the inheritance rights of adopted children and the inheritance rights of legal heirs. Although adopted children can receive a share of inheritance from their adoptive parents, this must be done by ensuring that this decision does not harm other inheritance rights. This principle prevents divisions between family members, which often arise due to inheritance disputes. Therefore, it is important to emphasize that the inheritance rights of adopted children must not conflict with the inheritance rights of legal heirs, such as biological children or spouses, and inheritance distribution must be carried out with fairness and proportionality.

In cases where an adopted child is formally adopted with clear legal procedures, his or her right to receive a share of the inheritance is more guaranteed. However, if adoption is only done by word of mouth without formal legal procedures, the adopted child may not have legal rights to inheritance. In this case, the alternative that is often taken is to provide a testamentary gift in accordance with the absolute share of the inherited assets, in accordance with the provisions regulated in the Civil Code. In this way, the fulfillment of the inheritance rights of adopted children can be carried out without ignoring the inheritance rights of other heirs, thus preventing conflicts between families and ensuring peace and justice in the distribution of inheritance.

Adoption of a child through a legal process in the District Court provides a clearer status regarding the child's position in terms of inheritance. Although the rules governing this may vary from one region to another, adoption through a court process tends to provide stronger legal certainty regarding the inheritance rights of adopted children. In some areas, court adoption can result in adopted children having equal inheritance rights to biological children, with provisions that may vary depending on local law.

Variations in local legal provisions influence the distribution of inheritance to adopted children in each region. Some regions may provide that adopted children recognized through the courts have the same inheritance rights as biological children, while other regions may provide different rights depending on local conditions and policies. Therefore, it is important for individuals considering adoption to understand local legal regulations regarding the inheritance rights of adopted children. Thus, through a legal process that is clear and varies according to regional conditions, adopted children can have legal certainty regarding their inheritance rights, while taking into account differences in legal provisions that may exist in various regions.

The opinion of the Notary emphasized that the adoption of children for Indonesian citizens (WNI) of Chinese descent still refers to the regulations contained in Staatsblad 1917 Number 129. In this context, adopted children have the right to inherit from the person who adopted them. This is because the child's legal status changes after being adopted, where he becomes the biological child of the person who adopted him. The importance of the adoption process and court decision is also emphasized in this case, emphasizing that legal recognition of the relationship between parents and adopted children occurs through an official legal process and is recognized by the authorities.

The Notary's firmness in stating that children adopted through the adoption process and court determination have the same inheritance rights as biological children highlights the importance of the legal provisions that apply in regulating the status of adopted children. By referring to certain regulations, such as Staatsblad 1917 Number 129, this shows that the status of adopted children and their inheritance rights are recognized and specifically regulated in law, providing legal certainty for all parties involved. This also reflects a commitment to maintaining fairness and sustainability in inheritance distribution amidst changes in family status involving the adoption of children.

With the recognition of equal status between adopted and biological children, in the context of inheritance distribution, adopted children have the same rights as biological children in accordance with the provisions of Article 852 of the Civil Code. This article emphasizes that in terms of inheritance distribution, adopted children have equal rights to biological children, so the law on distribution of inheritance must apply equally to both. This principle underlines the importance of fair and equal treatment in matters of inheritance, not differentiating between adopted and biological children.

Furthermore, Article 830 of the Civil Code confirms that the inheritance process only takes place after the death of the testator. This means that new inheritance or inheritance can be open to distribution after the heir dies, and only if the heir is still alive when the inheritance is opened. Thus, the principle of time in inheritance distribution emphasizes that the inheritance process only begins after death, confirming that the inheritance rights of adopted children will be relevant in that situation.

C. CONCLUSION

In the context of civil law in Indonesia, regulations regarding the inheritance rights of adopted children have several important aspects to consider. First, adoption can provide equal legal status between adopted and biological children, especially if

the adoption process is carried out through a court with clear legal procedures. In this case, adopted children have the same rights as biological children in inheritance distribution, in accordance with the provisions of Article 852 of the Civil Code. Second, gifts and wills are important instruments in the distribution of inheritance, but the legitimacy calculation must be carried out first before considering the gift or will, in accordance with Article 916a of the Civil Code. This article emphasizes the importance of protection for heirs who are entitled to receive the legitieme portie, so that gifts or bequests that exceed the permitted limits must be deducted to ensure fairness in the distribution of inheritance. Thus, the conclusion is that in the context of inheritance in Indonesia, the protection of the inheritance rights of adopted children is clearly regulated in civil law. Meanwhile, the use of gifts or wills can be an effective instrument in determining the distribution of inheritance, but it is necessary to pay attention to the legitieme portie calculation to ensure fairness and balance in inheritance distribution.

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