



Legal Vacuums in the Procedural Code of Ethics Trials of the Indonesian National Police

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ABSTRACT <p>The procedural Code of Ethics trials of the Indonesian National Police face significant legal vacuums that affect law enforcement and public trust. These gaps arise from unclear and conflicting legal provisions, undermining the legitimacy and internal performance of the police institution. This study aims to examine these legal vacuums and propose strategic solutions for their resolution. Utilizing a qualitative research method with legal and institutional analysis, the research investigates the structural and procedural deficiencies in the ethical trials conducted within the police force. The findings reveal a lack of consistency in regulations, insufficient transparency in trial processes, and weak enforcement mechanisms, leading to diminished accountability and public confidence. To address these issues, the study underscores the need for legislative reform, enhanced transparency, legal education for both police personnel and the public, and strengthening the Ethics Commission's role. These measures are pivotal in ensuring the effective implementation of the Code of Ethics and rebuilding trust in the institution. In conclusion, addressing legal vacuums and fostering ethical accountability will enhance the integrity and legitimacy of the Indonesian National Police in the public's eyes.</p> <p>Keywords: Accountability, Legislative Reform, Legal Vacuums, Police Ethics, Public Trust</p>			

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INTRODUCTION

The Code of Ethics is a fundamental element in the organizational structure of the police that serves as a behavioral guideline for members (Becker et al., 2023). This code not only reflects the moral and ethical values that must be upheld by every police officer but also plays a role in shaping a positive image of the institution in the eyes of the public. In their duties, police officers are often faced with complex and high-risk situations, where quick and accurate decisions are required. Without clear guidelines, there is a risk that the actions of police officers may deviate from legal and ethical norms, which can ultimately

undermine public trust in the institution (Martin & Olson, 2024). The existence of a code of ethics is also crucial in ensuring accountability and transparency in police operations. With the existence of a code of ethics, every action taken by police officers can be monitored and evaluated based on established standards. This helps prevent the abuse of power and corrupt actions that can harm the community and undermine the integrity of the institution (Oltmann, 2023). The code of ethics serves as a social control tool that encourages police officers to act in accordance with the principles of justice, respect human rights, and uphold the law with full integrity (Salhab et al., 2021).

The code of ethics has several important objectives within the police force (Henry et al., 2023). One of its aims is to instill values of professionalism among police members. This includes the development of attitudes and behaviors that reflect dedication to duty, responsibility, and the public interest (Bäckström & Schwarz, 2024). With clear guidelines in place, it is expected that police officers will be able to make appropriate decisions in difficult situations, ensuring that their actions align not only with the law but also with the moral norms prevalent in society. In addition, the code of ethics serves to strengthen the relationship between the police and the community. By upholding high ethical standards, the police can demonstrate their commitment to public service and the protection of community rights. This is crucial for building trust and legitimacy in the eyes of the public, which is a key element in the effectiveness of police work. When the community believes that the police act ethically and professionally, they are more likely to cooperate and provide support to law enforcement in maintaining security and order (Katzenstein, 2023).

According to Article 2 of Law No. 2 of 2002 on the Indonesian National Police, the functions of the police include the maintenance of public security and order, law enforcement, as well as the protection, guidance, and service to the community (Ispurwanto et al., 2021). In order to carry out this duty, Article 34 paragraphs (1) and (2) stipulate that the attitudes and behaviors of every police officer must adhere to the Code of Ethics for the Police Profession. This code of ethics serves as a guideline for all police functions in performing their duties in accordance with the prevailing laws and regulations (Wallace & Neptune-Figaro, 2022). This demonstrates the importance of the code of ethics as a moral and legal foundation governing the conduct of police members in carrying out their responsibilities. In carrying out their duties as law enforcement officers, the police are required to comply with various regulations, including the Indonesian National Police Regulation Number 7 of 2022, which governs the code of ethics for the police profession and the Ethics Commission. This code of ethics is expected to meet the increasing public expectations of the police, who are anticipated to provide better, more professional, and responsive services (Karunakaran, 2022). By serving as maintainers of security and order, protectors, and guides for the community, the police are expected to uphold domestic stability, especially in the era of reform that demands transparency and accountability in public services (Yang, 2023).

The attitudes, behaviors, and discipline of police members are crucial in fulfilling their roles as protectors, guides, and servants of the community. Police officers are

expected to be role models for the public, thereby enhancing the positive image of the police in the eyes of society. When police officers demonstrate professionalism in performing their duties, it can foster a sympathetic attitude from the community, which in turn encourages public participation in maintaining security and order. Thus, a positive image of the police in society will be easier to achieve (Drew & Martin, 2021). The professionalism of police personnel is reflected in their work results and behavior while serving the community. The code of ethics set forth in the Indonesian National Police Regulation Number 7 of 2022 encompasses various ethical aspects, such as State Ethics, Institutional Ethics, Community Ethics, and Personal Ethics (Fiske et al., 2021). Every police officer is required to adhere to the existing norms, which regulate what is permitted, what is prohibited, and the appropriate conduct to be taken in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities. With the existence of this guideline, it is hoped that every police officer can act consistently with the high ethical values upheld. In addressing violations of the code of ethics, the Indonesian National Police has specific procedures to resolve such issues. The process of resolving code of ethics violations is carried out through hearings conducted by the Police Ethics Committee (Pryce et al., 2021).

The existence of this committee is based on Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, particularly Article 35, which states that violations of the code of ethics by police officials must be resolved by the Ethics Committee (Irianto & Harkrisnowo, 2021). This article also stipulates that the organizational structure and working procedures of the committee are established through a decree from the Chief of Police. Thus, this committee functions as the body responsible for enforcing the code of ethics within the police environment. According to Police Regulation Number 7 of 2022 concerning the Code of Professional Ethics and the Police Ethics Committee of the Indonesian National Police, the Police Ethics Committee is defined as a body established to ensure the application of the code of ethics within the police force. Despite the existence of mechanisms to address violations of the code of ethics, violations related to criminal acts by police officers are often not handled optimally (Crum & Ramey, 2023). The disciplinary justice mechanism within the police is considered far from the principles of fairness and respect for human rights. There is concern that the hearings of the National Police Ethics Committee may serve as a means for violators to evade legal responsibility, leading to a judicial process that fails to provide effective restitution for victims of misconduct by police officers (Lantz et al., 2022).

Currently, the hearings of the National Police Ethics Committee are seen as unable to resolve existing issues and failing to deliver justice to the victims. One of the main problems lies in the lack of transparency in the hearing mechanism, which has tended to be conducted in a closed manner (Thompson & Morton, 2024). In fact, principles of good justice require hearings to be open to the public, allowing society the right to know about the trial process unless stipulated otherwise by law. Police Regulation Number 19 of 2012 has stated that hearings of the Ethics Committee must be conducted openly. However, with the implementation of Police Regulation Number 7 of 2022, there has been a change in this provision, where Article 40, paragraph (2), letter (a) gives authority to the Ethics

Committee to decide whether the hearing is held openly or closed. The decision to hold closed hearings raises concerns about the accountability of the legal process faced by police officers who violate the code of ethics. Unlike other institutions, such as the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), which ensures that all of its hearings are open to the public and can be covered by the media, the procedures at the National Police Ethics Committee do not fully support transparency (McDaniel & Malik, 2023). This generates public doubt about the integrity and fairness of the legal processes undergone by police officers, and it may worsen the image of the police in the eyes of the public (Heaton & Tong, 2023).

This situation has the potential to trigger public dissatisfaction with police performance, especially when violations of the code of ethics by police officers are not adjudicated fairly and transparently (Pepito et al., 2022). The existence of a judicial mechanism that does not guarantee justice for victims will create a sense of distrust towards the police institution as a protector and guardian of the community (Janvrin et al., 2023). As an institution expected to set an example in law enforcement and the protection of human rights, the police must demonstrate their commitment to creating a fair and effective judicial mechanism. This effort will not only improve the image of the police but also enhance public trust in law enforcement institutions. One significant issue is the absence of clear rules or procedures regarding access to information transparency in the ethics hearings of the National Police. The transparency intended includes access provided for the public to follow the process of the hearings, which should be easily accessible. However, to date, information regarding the decisions of ethical hearings has also been difficult to obtain, even though the implementation of hearings by the National Police Ethics Committee should prioritize the principle of transparency. This process must be conducted clearly and openly, following established procedures, so that the public can understand and monitor the course of the hearings (Fink et al., 2024).

Another critical issue is the lack of clarity regarding the access mechanisms for victims to obtain restitution for violations of ethics committed by police officers (Ali & Nicholson-Crotty, 2021). Violations that occur not only cause material losses but can also lead to immaterial damages for victims, such as feelings of trauma, loss of trust, or negative stigma. Therefore, it is essential to provide a clear pathway for victims to access appropriate forms of restitution. The current mechanisms within the National Police Ethics Committee do not fully reflect the rights of victims, creating injustice in handling ethical violations. Moreover, problems in the working mechanisms of the National Police Ethics Committee also indicate deviations from the principles of the rule of law. In the context of the rule of law (*rechtstaat*), legal certainty is a critical element. Legal certainty serves as the foundation for all legal products relating to the rights and obligations of society. Without legal certainty, the public will have difficulty understanding their rights and seeking justice when violations occur. This leads to dissatisfaction with the police institution and can diminish public trust in the legal system as a whole (Manyame & Muranda, 2023).

In the procedures for ethical hearings for police officers involved in criminal acts, several aspects are not clearly regulated in Police Regulation Number 7 of 2022. One of these ambiguities lies in Article 40, paragraph (2), letter (a), which grants the Ethics Committee the authority to decide whether the hearing is conducted openly or closed. This provision has the potential to create legal gaps, as there are no clear guidelines regarding when the hearing should be held openly. For instance, when a police officer is involved in a criminal act that is being adjudicated in a public court, the public should have the right to follow that process. However, the ambiguity in this regulation opens the possibility for hearings to be conducted behind closed doors, without considering the principle of transparency, which is essential to a fair judicial system. This could lead to uncertainty regarding the public's rights to access information related to the conduct of the hearings and neglect the principle of openness, which should be an integral part of law enforcement.

The legal gaps in this ethics hearing procedure have serious implications for the integrity and professionalism of police officers. When the hearing process is not conducted transparently, it may create the perception that police officers enjoy legal immunity, which in turn tarnishes the image of the police as a responsible law enforcement institution. Additionally, the lack of transparency in handling violations of the code of ethics will negatively impact public trust in the police institution. The public has the right to know the outcome of hearings and the restitution mechanisms applied to officers who commit violations. Uncertainty in this process will diminish public trust and create skepticism regarding the National Police's commitment to maintaining the integrity and professionalism of its personnel. Therefore, to rectify this situation, there is a need for clear and firm regulatory affirmations regarding the ethics hearing procedures, prioritizing transparency and accountability in every step taken by the National Police Ethics Committee.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The normative legal research method is an approach that focuses on the analysis of applicable legal norms and how these norms are applied in practice (Siliquini Cinelli et al., 2024). In this context, the legislative approach is very important, as the researcher will examine various regulations governing police ethics, particularly Police Regulation Number 7 of 2022 and Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police (Grünberger, 2022). Through this approach, the researcher can identify legal gaps and ambiguities in existing regulations, as well as their implications for the duties and functions of the police. Additionally, an analytical approach will also be used to explore and evaluate how these legal norms are interpreted and applied in specific cases (Abdeen et al., 2021), allowing the researcher to provide a comprehensive overview of the effectiveness and relevance of existing regulations in practice (Prakash et al., 2022). By combining these two approaches, the research will be able to produce in-depth, evidence-based recommendations for improvements in the police ethics hearing procedures as well as for enhancing the integrity and professionalism of police officers (Reddy et al., 2022).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Regulation and Legal Gaps in the Procedures of Police Ethics Hearings in Indonesia

Ethics, etymologically, consists of two words: “code” and “ethics.” In English, “code” has several meanings, including a set of rules that govern individual behavior in various situations, as well as written regulations or laws that must be followed, such as a “dress code” which governs appropriate attire in specific settings. Meanwhile, “ethics” refers to the behavior and attitudes of society. Thus, the code of ethics can be defined as a set of behavioral rules established by an institution to be followed and created within the framework of statutory regulations. In the study of law, ethical norms play an important role in supporting societal order, and the professional code of ethics is an organized formulation of moral principles for each profession. The code of ethics becomes increasingly necessary given the growing number of professions and the complexity of societal demands. In the environment of the Indonesian National Police, the legal basis for the code of ethics is regulated in the Regulation of the National Police Number 7 of 2022, which defines the Police Professional Code of Ethics (KEPP) as a moral norm that serves as a guideline for the attitudes and behaviors of police members in carrying out their daily duties and responsibilities. Additionally, this regulation also governs the establishment of the Indonesian National Police Code of Ethics Commission (KKEP) as the body responsible for enforcing the KEPP.

The Regulation of the Chief of the Indonesian National Police Number 6 of 2019 also states that a criminal act is a legal violation in the form of a crime or offense that may be subject to penalties in the form of imprisonment, detention, or fines. Police members, based on Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, are civil servants who serve in the police force (Liu & Bai, 2022). Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that police members who commit criminal acts are individuals who violate the law and may be subject to criminal penalties, which constitute crimes or offenses. In the context of Regulation of the National Police Number 7 of 2022 regarding the Professional Code of Ethics and the Police Code of Ethics Commission, Article 8 letter (c) number (1) emphasizes that every police officer must respect and adhere to the applicable legal norms. Therefore, police members involved in criminal acts also violate the professional code of ethics that requires them to comply with the positive legal norms existing in Indonesia (Zhao et al., 2024).

The procedure for an ethics hearing for police members who commit criminal acts is regulated in the Regulation of the National Police Number 7 of 2022, which requires preliminary examinations that encompass three stages: investigative audits, examinations, and documentation. This preliminary examination is conducted by the Accreditor and can be carried out without going through the investigative audit stage if there are at least two sufficient pieces of evidence based on the results of a case review. Article 14 of this regulation provides provisions regarding preliminary examinations. Police members who commit criminal acts fall into the category of serious code of ethics violations, as regulated in Article 17 paragraph (3) letter (e), which states that such actions are categorized as serious if there is a court decision with permanent legal force.

At the stage of preliminary examination, the procedures set forth in Article 19 paragraph (1) include summons of witnesses and the suspected violator, requests for the availability of experts, as well as obtaining statements from witnesses and the suspect. The documentation process, regulated in Article 36, includes the preparation of administrative documents related to the results of the examination. The Police Code of Ethics Commission, as the enforcing body of the code of ethics, is responsible for studying the results of the examination from the Accreditor, conducting trials for code of ethics violations, and making decisions regarding those trials. Based on Article 40, this commission has the authority to decide whether the trial is held openly or closed, regulate the course of the hearings, and impose sanctions on the alleged violator.

The procedures for conducting hearings against police members involved in criminal acts are clearly regulated in Article 53. The hearing of the Police Code of Ethics Commission will be conducted after the preliminary examination is completed. This hearing aims to examine and decide cases related to violations of the police professional code of ethics, as stipulated in this police regulation. Additionally, the hearing also examines violations listed in Articles 12, 13, and 14 of Government Regulation Number 1 of 2003, which regulates the dismissal of police members, as well as Article 13 of Government Regulation Number 2 of 2003, which pertains to the discipline of police members.

Article 12 of Government Regulation Number 1 of 2003 states that police members may be dismissed dishonorably from police service if they are sentenced to prison based on a court decision with permanent legal force, if proven to have provided false information when applying to become a member, or are involved in activities aimed at undermining Pancasila or illegally opposing the state (Sari & Santoso Pn, 2024). Dismissal can only occur after a Police Professional Code of Ethics Commission trial has taken place. From this provision, the author concludes that if a police member has been sentenced by a court decision with finality, the Police Professional Code of Ethics Commission would decide to dismiss them dishonourably (De Leo et al., 2022).

Regarding the requirements necessary for a decision to be made in an ethics hearing, Article 63 stipulates that the decision of the Police Professional Code of Ethics Commission must be based on at least two valid pieces of evidence, the commission's conviction regarding the violation committed by the alleged violator, and facts that may aggravate or mitigate the conduct of the alleged violator (Muhaimin et al., 2021). Valid evidence includes witness statements, expert testimony, documents, electronic evidence, indications, and statements from the alleged violator themselves (Shjarback, 2022).

The ethical hearing decision is also regulated in Article 64, which states that the decision may conclude that the violator has been proven to have violated the police professional code of ethics in a legal and convincing manner, or conversely, has not been proven to have committed a violation (Davies & Al Sharefeen, 2022). Furthermore, Article 65 emphasizes that the decision of the Police Professional Code of Ethics Commission is final and binding, unless the violator submits an objection, there is a

decision from the official who formed the Code of Ethics, or if the alleged violator is absent during the trial and the decision is read out (Wu & Sun, 2022).

To deepen the analysis related to the provisions in the Regulation of the National Police Number 7 of 2022 regarding the mechanism of ethical trials for police members who commit criminal acts, it is important to refer to Article 111. This article provides an opportunity for the alleged violator of the code of ethics who is threatened with dishonorable dismissal sanctions to resign from police service before the Code of Ethics Commission hearing is conducted. Certain considerations that may serve as the basis for this resignation include a minimum service of 20 years, good achievements or performance, and services rendered to the police, nation, and state prior to committing the violation. This provision indicates that there is room for police members to consider measures that can be taken before facing the hearing process while also providing options to avoid dishonorable dismissal.

Considering several provisions in the Regulation of the Indonesian National Police Number 7 of 2022, it can be concluded that police members who commit criminal acts have violated ethical obligations as police members. These actions fall into the category of serious code of ethics violations, which potentially result in sanctions of Dishonorable Dismissal (PTDH). However, before imposing such sanctions, there is a procedural mechanism of an ethics hearing that must be undergone by police members, which is regulated by the Police Code of Ethics Commission. This process begins with the preliminary examination stage, which includes investigative audits, examinations, and document collection. However, if a police member has been sentenced based on a court ruling with permanent legal force, the investigative audit stage need not be conducted. Once the preliminary examination is completed, the ethics hearing can be conducted.

Issues arise in the mechanism of the ethical hearing for police members involved in criminal acts. Article 40 paragraph (2) letter (a) states that the hearing may be conducted openly or closed, depending on the decision of the Code of Ethics Commission. This creates a loophole for the implementation of closed ethics hearings, both for perpetrators who are undergoing trials in general courts or those who have already received a ruling. This provision could potentially disregard the principle of transparency in legal processes, which is one of the essential elements in creating justice, especially for the victims. In this case, the current Police Code of Ethics Commission hearings are deemed not to provide justice for victims. One of the problems is that the mechanism is considered non-transparent, as the possibility of the hearing being held behind closed doors exists. Meanwhile, the principle of open justice is fundamental to ensuring the public's right to know about the trial process. Law Number 48 of 2009 concerning Judicial Power emphasizes that all court trial hearings must be open to the public, unless otherwise stipulated by law.

The Impact of Legal Vacuums and Efforts to Address Legal Vacuums in the Indonesian National Police Code of Ethics Hearing Procedures

A legal vacuum refers to a situation where a regulatory provision does not clearly or comprehensively address a legal issue, resulting in uncertainty in its application. In the police code of ethics hearing procedures, a legal vacuum can occur when there are provisions that are nonspecific, conflicting, or not detailed enough to provide adequate guidance in the disciplinary enforcement process against police members who commit violations. This can lead to difficulties in law enforcement, reduced accountability, and an erosion of public trust in police institutions (Ziegler & Iliescu, 2023).

The impact of a legal vacuum significantly affects law enforcement, particularly in hearings for police members who have committed violations. One consequence is the decreased effectiveness of law enforcement against police members who breach ethical standards. The lack of clarity in regulations governing the code of ethics hearings causes uncertainty in the application of sanctions against violators. As a result, the disciplinary process becomes less assertive, potentially leading police members to believe that their actions will not have meaningful consequences. This has the potential to create a culture of impunity within the police institution, where ethical violations are seen as issues that can be overlooked without fear of sanctions (Parez, 2021).

The effects of a legal vacuum are also felt in the realm of public trust in police institutions. When the public observes that ethical violations by police members are not handled transparently and fairly, their trust in the police as law enforcers diminishes. This decline in trust not only affects the reputation of the police but may also lead to public noncompliance with existing laws and regulations. The implications of this situation are that the legitimacy of the police in the eyes of the public is increasingly questioned, as society tends to view this institution as less trustworthy and ineffective in safeguarding their interests.

From the victims' perspective, legal vacuums create profound injustice. Victims of violations committed by police members often feel neglected, especially if the code of ethics process does not provide them with the justice they rightfully deserve. They may feel that the violations they experience are not acknowledged or taken seriously, further adding to their pain and frustration. This uncertainty exacerbates the trauma suffered by victims and can lead to a loss of trust in the legal system as a whole. On the other hand, the impact of legal vacuums on police performance can be quite detrimental. Ambiguity in rules can affect the morale and internal ethics of the police institution. Law-abiding officers may feel demotivated when they see their colleagues who violate the code of ethics facing no appropriate consequences. This can lead to a decline in institutional integrity, where the values of professionalism and honesty, which should be the foundation of public service, become diluted. In the long run, this can diminish the overall effectiveness of the police in fulfilling their role as protectors and guardians of society.

Legal vacuums in the code of ethics hearing procedures within the Indonesian National Police can be identified through unclear or conflicting legal provisions in policing regulations, particularly in Regulation of the National Police Number 7 of 2022. For instance, provisions regarding transparency in the conduct of code of ethics hearings are often not explained in detail. Article 40 paragraph (2) letter (a) stipulates that hearings

can be conducted openly or closed, but there is no further explanation regarding the criteria used to determine when a hearing should be conducted in private. This lack of clarity creates confusion among police members and the public regarding their rights to oversee the trial process and raises questions about the principles of justice that should be upheld by law enforcement institutions.

Provisions concerning the limitations of evidence that can be used in code of ethics hearings also create ambiguity. Article 63 states that the hearing decision must be based on at least two valid pieces of evidence; however, it does not elaborate further on the types and criteria of evidence deemed “valid” in the context of the code of ethics. This can lead to varying interpretations among members of the Code of Ethics Commission regarding the assessment of presented evidence. This ambiguity not only has the potential to influence final decisions but can also lead to dissatisfaction among the alleged violators who feel that the process was unfair.

Addressing legal vacuums in the code of ethics hearing procedures of the Indonesian National Police requires a series of comprehensive efforts. Reforming legal regulations is crucial to clarify and strengthen provisions governing police ethics. Revisions or updates to Regulation of the National Police Number 7 of 2022 should be carried out to address existing ambiguities, particularly concerning trial mechanisms, types and criteria of evidence, and the transparency of hearings. These updates should involve various stakeholders, including community representatives, to ensure that the resulting regulations reflect public needs and expectations. Thus, this revision not only functions to close legal gaps but also to make the code of ethics enforcement system more responsive to community demands.

Increasing transparency in the conduct of code of ethics hearings is a vital step in ensuring accountability. Conducting hearings openly can help reduce the negative stigma against police institutions and demonstrate a commitment to principles of justice. This transparency can be realized by providing clear information about hearing schedules, trial outcomes, and the rationale behind decisions made by the Code of Ethics Commission. Moreover, publicly and comprehensively publishing hearing results will provide the community with the opportunity to monitor the legal process and offer constructive feedback regarding procedural improvements.

Another effort is the socialization and legal education, which are key to enhancing the understanding of police members and the public about the code of ethics and applicable legal procedures. Systematic legal education for police members will help them understand the importance of compliance with the code of ethics and the consequences of violations committed. Additionally, socializing the public about their rights and obligations in legal processes, including in the context of code of ethics hearings, is crucial for building public awareness. In this way, the public can become more active in overseeing and demanding accountability from police members.

There is also a need for institutional strengthening of the Code of Ethics Commission, which is vital. Enhancing the capacity and independence of the Code of Ethics Commission is necessary to ensure that they can effectively carry out their duties

without external pressures. This includes increased training for Commission members, adequate facilities and infrastructure, as well as consistent enforcement of the code of ethics within the organization. With a strong and independent institution, the code of ethics hearings process will be more objective and capable of addressing various violations that occur, thus maintaining public trust in police institutions.

CONCLUSION

Legal vacuums in the code of ethics hearing procedures of the Indonesian National Police represent a serious issue that significantly affects law enforcement and public trust. The lack of clarity around legal provisions, particularly related to the hearing mechanisms, transparency, and accountability, creates opportunities for undetected violations and injustices for victims of crimes committed by police members. Additionally, this uncertainty negatively impacts the internal performance of the police, where low morale and ethics can disrupt the functions and image of the police institution in the eyes of the community. Therefore, addressing this legal vacuum is urgent so that the police institution can operate in accordance with the legal and ethical principles that should be upheld.

To address this legal vacuum, a series of strategic efforts are needed, including regulatory reforms, enhanced transparency in code of ethics hearings, and legal education for both police members and the public. Regulatory reforms will clarify and strengthen existing provisions, making the implementation of code of ethics hearings more accountable and justifiable. Increasing transparency through open hearings for the public will help build public trust in the police and provide opportunities for the community to engage in oversight processes. Furthermore, comprehensive legal education for police members will enhance their understanding of the code of ethics and the consequences of violations, while strengthening the institutional capacity of the Code of Ethics Commission will ensure that this body can effectively and independently carry out its duties. With these measures, it is hoped that the legal vacuum in the code of ethics hearing procedures can be addressed, thereby strengthening the legitimacy and integrity of the police institution in the eyes of the public.

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