

## Legal Dilemma of Abortion Regulation for Rape Victims in Indonesia from the Perspective of Justice

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### KEYWORDS

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expert witness, drug  
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### ABSTRACT

This research discusses the role and impact of medical expert witness testimony in drug abuse cases involving police officers as alleged violators of the code of ethics. Expert witness testimony plays a critical role as a key piece of evidence in the legal process, particularly in determining the validity of allegations and ensuring fairness in proceedings. However, the study highlights several challenges faced by medical experts, including social pressure, public stigma, and potential conflicts of interest that may compromise their objectivity, integrity, and independence. Furthermore, the complexity of legal procedures and administrative constraints can hinder the timely collection of biological samples and subsequent analysis. Difficulties in accessing relevant medical records and data further exacerbate these challenges, creating delays and inefficiencies in resolving cases. This study also underscores the psychological and institutional pressures on expert witnesses when handling cases involving law enforcement personnel, which can impact their professional credibility. To address these issues, the research recommends systemic reforms aimed at strengthening the role of expert witnesses through clearer regulations, standardized procedures for evidence collection, and enhanced safeguards to protect their independence. Improved transparency, accountability, and collaboration between legal and medical institutions are critical to ensuring justice, particularly in cases of drug abuse involving law enforcement officers.

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### Introduction

The police, as law enforcement officers, have a responsibility to adhere to a code of ethics that is not only intended for professional interests but is also normatively regulated in Article 34 of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Police (Tabah, 2002). This code of ethics not only governs the daily conduct of police officers but also ensures that they carry out their duties with integrity and in accordance with the applicable laws. This is crucial because the role of the police in enforcing the law significantly impacts

the quality and fairness of law enforcement in society (Ismail, 2012). Therefore, any actions by police officers that violate the code of ethics must receive serious attention and be addressed in accordance with the existing procedures. The rapid advancement of information technology also presents new challenges for the Indonesian National Police (Polri) in maintaining the professionalism of its members.

This technology affects the dynamics of modern crime, which is becoming increasingly complex and requires new approaches to law enforcement. Law Number 2 of 2002 outlines the primary responsibilities of Polri to adapt to technological developments, both in the execution of their duties and in improving quality through education and training (Abdussalam, 2011). For this reason, the use of information technology has become one of Polri's strategies to enhance the professionalism of its members in facing modern challenges. Police officers who are found to have violated the code of ethics may face sanctions in accordance with the provisions set forth in Police Regulation Number 7 of 2022 regarding the Code of Professional Ethics and the Code of Ethics Commission of Polri (Perpol Number 7 of 2022).

This regulation states that members who intentionally violate the code of ethics may be subjected to penalties in the form of ethical or administrative sanctions (Savira & Novianto, 2020). The severest penalty that can be imposed is dismissal with dishonor (PTDH). Other administrative sanctions may include recommendations for PTDH, as explained in Article 109, paragraph (1), letter e, which is decided by the KKEP Hearing after a legal violation has been proven through the general court process. This indicates that every violation of the code of ethics is not only adjudicated internally but also subjected to the applicable legal process (Hardja, 2013). Based on Article 29, paragraph (1) of Law Number 2 of 2002, police officers are required to submit to the authority of the general court. This emphasizes that police members are part of civil society and not subjects of military law. Therefore, any violations committed by police officers must be adjudicated by the general court, in accordance with the legal principles applicable to civilians. The code of professional ethics serves as a guideline for every police officer in carrying out their duties, as well as a mechanism for social control to maintain the integrity of the police institution. This code of ethics demonstrates a systematic relationship between ethics and profession, especially in the context of fair and transparent law enforcement (Hartono, 2012).

The Code of Professional Ethics of the Indonesian National Police encompasses guidelines that must be followed by every police officer in carrying out their duties and responsibilities, both when interacting with the public and in daily activities outside of formal duties. The norms outlined in this Code of Professional Ethics, as stipulated in Article 8 of Police Regulation Number 7 of 2022, have binding force and aim to ensure that every member of the police acts in accordance with moral and ethical principles (Basuki, 2015). Within the Indonesian National Police organization, there is the Professional and Security Division (PROPAM) tasked with handling reports and investigating allegations of ethical code violations or criminal offenses committed by police officers. The results of PROPAM's investigations are subsequently followed up through the Police Ethics Court. The professionalism of the police, which is a public expectation, is closely related to PROPAM's role in enforcing the code of ethics, ultimately contributing to public trust in the police (Rahardi, 2007).

However, in law enforcement, particularly concerning violations committed by police officers, various obstacles frequently arise. One of the issues faced is inconsistent application of the law or ambiguities in the legislation itself. Barriers may also stem from

resources, a lack of public awareness, or even from law enforcement officials themselves (Rohmat et al., 2024). In cases of criminal offenses committed by police officers, the challenges become greater as they involve legal processes that must not only be fair but also effective in preventing future violations. Good law enforcement, in accordance with legal regulations, is essential to ensure that the police remain a trusted and professional institution in carrying out their duties (Afita, 2020).

Moreover, the code of ethics for the police profession encompasses four main aspects: state ethics, institutional ethics, community ethics, and personal ethics. For example, a violation of personal ethics occurs when a police officer fails to adhere to simple rules, such as not wearing a helmet while riding a motorcycle, which is clearly a violation of riding regulations (Rany, 2018). More serious cases of ethical violations have also recently occurred, such as when a senior police officer was involved in the murder of his aide, resulting in his dishonorable dismissal (Sibarani & Alhakim, 2021). In handling violations committed by senior officials (PJU), the process of the ethics court may face challenges if the official still holds office, as they must first be dismissed before the hearing can take place. Therefore, despite the significant progress made in enforcing the code of ethics since the reform era, there are still challenges to be addressed to ensure that the police operate in accordance with the established norms (Pandiangan et al., 2022).

One challenge faced is the increasing complexity of crime, which necessitates enhanced professionalism among police officers, in line with the implementation of the Police Grand Strategy. This effort aims to eliminate the negative stigma that has long been associated with the police. The performance of the police is still often disrupted by various acts of violations and abuses of power, particularly among Police Officers post-training (Diktuk). The emergence of arrogant attitudes among officers is caused by excessive pride in being part of the police force, as well as a lack of self-control in behavior and social interactions after the isolation of training. Additionally, the immaturity of mental and cognitive maturity stages, along with weak conflict management, also influence these issues (Gaussyah, 2012).

**Table 1. Data on Violations by Police Officers 2021-2023**

| No | Type of Violation                | 2021       | 2022       | 2023       |
|----|----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1  | Disciplinary Violations          | 175        | 276        | 224        |
| 2  | Violations of the Code of Ethics | 111        | 211        | 303        |
|    | <b>Total</b>                     | <b>286</b> | <b>487</b> | <b>537</b> |

Data from the Division of Propam shows that types of disciplinary violations include: (a) undermining the honor and dignity of the state and government; (b) abuse of authority; (c) leaving duty without permission from superiors; (d) avoiding official responsibilities; and (e) taking sides in cases being handled. Meanwhile, the types of violations of the Police Professional Code of Ethics (KEPP) include: (a) unprofessional conduct in handling cases; (b) illegal levies; (c) abuse of authority; (d) committing criminal acts; (e) immoral actions; and (f) drug use. These data indicate that both disciplinary violations and KEPP share significant commonalities. Furthermore, violations of the Police Professional Code of Ethics tend to increase every year, with very high figures from 2020 to 2022 (Nugraha, 2017).

The testimony of medical expert witnesses plays a crucial role in the legal process, particularly in drug abuse cases. By definition, a medical expert witness is a medical professional who provides opinions or assessments based on their medical knowledge and experience regarding the medical evidence found in a case. The primary function of an

expert witness in the context of drug abuse is to provide objective medical explanations regarding the health condition of the defendant, the types of drugs consumed, the effects of drugs on the body, and other aspects that require medical expertise for understanding. This testimony is extremely helpful for law enforcement, judges, or prosecutors in understanding technical aspects that may not be grasped without medical expertise.

The importance of medical expert testimony in drug abuse cases arises from various factors. First, drug abuse often requires medical analysis to determine whether an individual was genuinely under the influence of drugs or had been using them over an extended period. Laboratory tests, such as blood or urine tests, serve as primary evidence typically explained by a medical expert. In addition, the expert also provides vital information regarding the effects of drugs on both the psychological and physical states of the accused, which can influence sentencing or the rehabilitative treatment required. In some cases, medical experts can even determine whether an individual is genuinely addicted or has a medical condition that necessitates treatment rather than simply facing criminal penalties.

However, despite the significance of medical expert testimony, challenges remain in ensuring the validity and legal certainty of the provided statements. Expert witnesses are expected to deliver objective and scientifically based testimony, but in practice, there is a risk of differing interpretations or even potential bias from the expert's side. This can occur if the provided testimony does not fully align with medical standards or due to conflicts of interest among the involved parties. Therefore, the integrity and reliability of the expert witness are crucial to ensure that the testimony genuinely supports justice in the legal process.

In terms of legal certainty, the role of medical expert witnesses is not limited to proving drug use but also extends to the rehabilitation and recovery process of the defendant. Legal decisions based on medical testimony must carefully consider the information provided by the expert to avoid errors in determining penalties or handling cases. Legal uncertainties may arise if the expert testimony is inadequate or inconsistent, which can ultimately affect the outcome of the trial. Therefore, ensuring legal certainty through the testimony of medical expert witnesses is an important step in upholding fair and accurate law enforcement in cases of drug abuse.

The regulation of abortion for rape victims in Indonesia remains a controversial and sensitive issue due to the tension between cultural, religious, and legal perspectives. While existing laws such as the Health Law (Law No. 36 of 2009) and Government Regulation No. 61 of 2014 allow abortion for victims of rape under certain conditions, there is still a significant gap in their implementation, including unclear procedures, limited access to medical services, and stigma faced by victims. Previous studies have primarily focused on the ethical or religious dimensions of abortion but lack comprehensive analysis from a justice perspective, particularly regarding the protection of rape victims' rights and well-being. This research fills that gap by examining the regulatory shortcomings and exploring whether current abortion laws in Indonesia adequately serve justice for rape victims.

This study offers a unique perspective by analyzing the legal dilemma of abortion regulation for rape victims through the lens of justice, particularly focusing on balancing the principles of legal certainty, human rights, and gender equality. Unlike previous studies that only highlight legal and moral debates, this research provides a holistic framework for addressing procedural inconsistencies and social stigma while ensuring victims' access to safe and legal medical services. By incorporating justice theories and

human rights principles, this study introduces new recommendations for legal reform that prioritize victim protection and promote a more equitable legal system.

The objective of this research is to critically analyze the regulatory framework governing abortion for rape victims in Indonesia, identify challenges in its implementation, and propose solutions that align with justice principles. This study aims to benefit policymakers by offering evidence-based recommendations for reforming abortion regulations to ensure fair and equal access to medical services for victims. Additionally, it provides valuable insights for legal practitioners, healthcare providers, and human rights advocates in supporting the rights and dignity of rape survivors. Ultimately, this research contributes to strengthening Indonesia's legal system by promoting justice, protecting vulnerable groups, and reducing societal stigma surrounding abortion for rape victims.

## **Research Methods**

The research methodology used in this study is the normative juridical method. Normative juridical methods focus on the study of applicable legal norms, such as regulations, legal doctrines, and other related principles. This method aims to analyze how legal rules are applied in specific cases and how underlying legal principles resolve legal issues. With this approach, the research focuses on collecting and analyzing primary and secondary legal materials, such as laws, court decisions, and legal literature. This enables researchers to gain a comprehensive understanding of applicable legal rules and how these rules are interpreted and implemented in practice.

This study employs two main approaches: the statute approach and the conceptual approach. The statute approach aims to analyze relevant legislative regulations, such as Law Number 2 of 2002 on the Police, POLRI Regulations on the Code of Ethics, and other rules related to drug abuse and evidence in criminal law. Whereas, the conceptual approach is used to understand the underlying concepts of law itself, including concepts of legal certainty, justice, and professionalism in law enforcement. By combining these two approaches, this research can explore how legal theories and norms interact and provide solutions to the problems faced within law enforcement practices.

## **Results and Discussions**

### **The Role and Strength of Medical Expert Witness Testimony in Proving Drug Abuse by Police Officers as Alleged Violators of the Code of Ethics**

In the Indonesian Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP), expert testimony is recognized as one of the valid pieces of evidence and is regulated in Article 184 paragraph (1) letter b. Article 1 number 28 explains that an expert is an individual possessing specific skills in a relevant field to provide clarification in criminal cases during the examination process. Furthermore, Article 186 states that expert testimony refers to statements expressed by an expert in court. Referring to these three articles, several requirements must be fulfilled for expert testimony to be regarded as valid evidence. First, the testimony must address aspects corresponding to the expert's expertise. Second, the testimony provided must be directly related to the criminal case being tried.

Within KUHAP, experts can be categorized into three groups based on their expertise:

1. Experts with specific expertise, as regulated in Article 120 KUHAP.
2. Experts possessing expertise in analyzing forged documents and writings, as elucidated in Article 132 KUHAP.

3. Forensic medical experts or doctors who determine the condition of the victim, including injuries, poisoning, or death, in accordance with Articles 133 and 179 KUHAP.

Article 120 KUHAP emphasizes that experts must possess relevant expertise related to the type of case under examination. Thus, there are no strict limitations on the qualifications of an expert; as long as the individual is considered competent in the relevant field, their testimony can be accepted as valid evidence. From a legal perspective, expert testimony serves as a critical piece of evidence in supporting the judge's decision. Provisions within KUHAP stress that testimony regarded as valid evidence is that which pertains to the area of expertise of the expert. In drug abuse cases, for instance, the required testimony would come from an expert in narcotic issues, such as a physician capable of accurately assessing whether the defendant has indeed consumed narcotics. With this expertise, the expert witness not only provides medical information but also contributes to the judge's understanding of the effects of drug abuse on the physical and mental health of the defendant, as well as the legal implications of the actions taken. Therefore, expert testimony pertinent to their field becomes one of the key elements in a fair and transparent judicial process.

The evidentiary strength possessed by expert testimony is on par with the value of witness testimony. Expert testimony, as a piece of evidence, possesses specific characteristics referred to as "free" or "vrij bewijsrecht" evidentiary value. This means that the testimony is not automatically regarded as absolute truth and is not binding upon the judge. Judges have the freedom to assess the expert testimony and are not obligated to accept it as fact. However, in exercising their authority to evaluate the testimony, judges must be morally accountable to achieve true justice and ensure legal enforcement and certainty.

According to Article 183 of the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP), expert testimony cannot stand alone as the sole valid piece of evidence. To prove the guilt of the defendant, expert testimony must be corroborated by other pieces of evidence. This is further reinforced by Article 185 paragraph (2) KUHP, which states that the testimony of a witness alone is insufficient to establish the guilt of the defendant. Therefore, the testimony from an expert cannot be used as a singular basis for determining guilt but must be accompanied by other valid pieces of evidence to be considered adequate to support conclusions regarding the defendant's culpability. This underscores the importance of having more than one valid piece of evidence to achieve a fair decision in the judicial process.

According to Lamintang's opinion, it is important to note that two valid pieces of evidence alone are still insufficient for the judge to impose a sentence. The judge must be convinced that a criminal act has truly occurred and that the defendant was involved in the violation. A judge's conviction will not form if it solely relies on two pieces of evidence, without the support of other valid evidence. This assertion shows that although expert testimony is recognized within the judicial system, more than just this testimony is necessary to establish strong conviction among judges.

Additionally, Djoko Prakoso suggests that even though KUHP establishes expert testimony as a valid piece of evidence, judges cannot disregard the testimony outright. The process of proving criminal acts often necessitates knowledge and skills that only an expert can provide. Thus, judges need to develop an appropriate assessment of expert testimonies according to the case context. This includes providing logical arguments in accepting or rejecting the testimony from experts, ensuring that the decisions made by the

judges are founded on a deep understanding of the presented evidence. Expert testimony must be viewed within the framework of Article 183 KUHAP, emphasizing the importance of two valid pieces of evidence to achieve a judge's conviction in imposing a penalty on the defendant.

Testimony from an expert alone, without the backing of other pieces of evidence, is inadequate to prove the guilt of a defendant. This indicates that the evidentiary strength attributed to expert testimony is equivalent to that of other pieces of evidence classified as "free." In this context, "free" means that the final decision concerning penalties significantly relies on the judge's conviction. Judges possess full authority to evaluate and ascertain the truth based on a variety of existing pieces of evidence, including expert testimony.

In drug abuse criminal cases, the presence of testimony from an expert experienced in drug dependency is essential. Without input from an expert, law enforcement officers may struggle to prove the wrongdoing of the defendant. Legal knowledge alone is not sufficient to establish that the defendant has indeed consumed narcotics. Here, expert testimony functions as valid evidence as stipulated in the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP), significantly contributing to the uncovering of relevant facts.

Expert testimony has a substantial impact on the court process, as it can provide essential information necessary to construct a clearer picture of the defendant's circumstances. The judge may then consider this testimony in making decisions. Therefore, the role of expert testimony in uncovering facts is paramount and may influence the judge's decisions in resolving the case at hand. Thus, to achieve balanced justice and ensure that the law is enforced correctly, it is crucial for expert testimony to be presented alongside other pieces of evidence in the judicial process.

Testimony from medical expert witnesses has a significant influence in proving drug abuse cases. In legal contexts, medical expert witnesses usually consist of doctors or medical professionals with specialized expertise in forensic medicine and substance addiction. Their testimony can assist the court in understanding the medical aspects related to drug abuse, including the physical and psychological symptoms resulting from the use of narcotics. Consequently, this testimony not only provides an overview of the defendant's health condition but also presents relevant evidence regarding behaviors and conditions that may indicate abuse.

The methods used by medical expert witnesses to examine suspected drug abuse typically involve a systematic series of steps. First, the expert will conduct in-depth interviews to gather medical history and information regarding drug use habits. This interview aims to identify the types of narcotics used, the frequency of usage, and the impacts experienced by the individual. After the interview phase, the expert will perform physical examinations to evaluate clinical signs that may arise due to drug abuse, such as changes in behavior, physical appearance, and other medical symptoms.

Following the initial examination, the medical expert may proceed with sample collection for further analysis. This process usually involves obtaining urine, blood, or hair samples from the suspect. The samples collected will be sent to a laboratory for analysis using various testing techniques, such as immunoassays or chromatography. Laboratory analysis aims to detect the presence of illegal substances in the suspect's body and to determine the levels or concentrations of those substances. The results of this analysis will provide empirical evidence regarding whether an individual has indeed used narcotics, and aid in forming strong arguments in court.

### **Obstacles to Legal Certainty through Medical Expert Testimony in Drug Abuse Cases Involving Police Officers as Alleged Violators of the Code of Ethics**

Drug abuse cases involving police officers as alleged violators of the code of ethics have become a serious focus within the context of law enforcement in Indonesia. Amid efforts to strengthen the integrity of police institutions, the role of medical expert witness testimony becomes vital in providing objective and scientific evidence concerning allegations of drug abuse. However, various obstacles hinder the effective presentation of expert witness testimony in court. These obstacles pertain not only to procedural and legal aspects but also to social, ethical, and professional factors that may affect the courage and independence of expert witnesses in providing testimony.

The social status of police officers as suspects in drug abuse cases can significantly impact the courage of expert witnesses in providing testimony. As part of a law enforcement institution, police officers often have access to greater resources and structural support compared to regular individuals. This can create an atmosphere of intimidation, both directly and indirectly, which may influence the attitude and decisions of expert witnesses. In this context, expert witnesses might feel pressured to present testimony that is not entirely objective or may even refrain from testifying altogether, especially if they fear repercussions for their involvement in the case.

Additionally, the psychological pressure experienced by expert witnesses may be exacerbated by the stigma attached to drug abuse cases. Police officers, as representatives of law and order, may lead expert witnesses to feel that providing testimony contradicting the official narrative could label them as traitors or contribute to a negative image of the institution. Therefore, it is crucial to create a safe and supportive environment for expert witnesses, enabling them to provide accurate and objective testimony without fear of unforeseen repercussions.

Maintaining the integrity and independence of expert witnesses is a significant challenge in legal proceedings, particularly when the alleged violators are police officers. When expert witnesses interact closely with the police institution, potential conflicts of interest may arise, potentially affecting the objectivity of provided testimony. For example, an expert witness might have a close professional relationship with the involved police officer, raising doubts about their ability to give genuinely independent testimony. In such cases, there is a risk that the expert witness may be influenced by their loyalty to their colleagues rather than the truth that needs to be revealed in court.

Additionally, the process of appointing and selecting expert witnesses may render them vulnerable to external influences. If the expert witness is appointed by a party involved in the case, such as the police institution, their independence may be called into question. In this context, it is essential to have transparent and accountable mechanisms in selecting expert witnesses to ensure the integrity of the legal process is maintained. Thus, the courage and freedom of expert witnesses to provide objective testimony must be supported by a system that protects them from potential pressure or conflicts of interest, ultimately contributing to justice within the judicial process.

The legal procedures that expert witnesses must navigate when providing testimony in court are often complex and challenging. Upon receiving a summons to testify, expert witnesses are required to prepare themselves thoroughly, which includes literature review, data collection, and careful analysis of the case being faced. Furthermore, they must understand various legal aspects relevant to the case, including provisions governing expert testimony in the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP). This process can become



exhausting, especially if witnesses face in-depth legal questioning from opposing parties during the trial.

Administrative constraints can also hinder the processes of sample collection and analysis. Often, expert witnesses need official permission to access data or perform specific procedures, such as collecting blood or urine samples from suspected drug users. The process of requesting such permits can be time-consuming, and any delays could impede the obtaining of analytical results necessary for proving the case in court. Moreover, if expert witnesses collaborate with health organizations or laboratories, the strict internal procedures of those institutions can result in slow communication and processing, further hampering the presentation of accurate and timely testimony.

Access to medical data and relevant information from police institutions often presents significant hurdles for expert witnesses. Many pieces of information related to drug abuse cases may be sensitive and restricted, especially when involving evidence that must be protected to maintain the integrity of the legal process. In some instances, expert witnesses may encounter difficulties in obtaining the information needed for their analyses, which in turn can affect the accuracy and completeness of the testimony provided in court. Ambiguities in data collection processes or lack of coordination among relevant parties can lead to the loss of crucial information necessary to support scientific conclusions.

Additionally, challenges in garnering support from health or laboratory institutions can disrupt the evidentiary process. Expert witnesses may require access to laboratory facilities for further analysis or testing, yet this can be constrained by various factors, including budget limitations, resource shortages, or even internal health institution policies that do not facilitate such collaboration. This lack of access not only prolongs judicial processes but can also degrade the quality of the evidence presented, making the testimony of expert witnesses less effective in clarifying relevant facts related to drug abuse cases. To ensure that provided testimony is accurate and reliable, collaborative efforts between law enforcement and health institutions are necessary to facilitate better access to the required information and support.

Drug abuse cases, particularly those involving law enforcement personnel, are often accompanied by significant stigma. This stigma not only affects how society perceives involved individuals but can also affect the entire law enforcement institution. Police officers accused of drug abuse are frequently seen as having betrayed their responsibilities to protect the public, leading to negative perceptions of them from the populace. This stigma can exacerbate situations, fostering perceptions that all law enforcement officers may be engaged in unethical practices. Such views can diminish public trust in police institutions and hinder public cooperation in providing information or relevant testimonies.

The impact of public perception can directly influence the willingness of expert witnesses to testify. Witnesses who may feel pressured by negative stigma could hesitate to provide objective and accurate testimony, considering they too may become targets of similar public scrutiny. Fears of social repercussions or possible intimidation from certain parties can affect their decisions to testify or freely express their opinions. In this context, it is crucial for authorities to create a supportive and protective environment for expert witnesses so that they may provide testimony grounded in their expertise without feeling pressured by public stigma.

Expert witnesses frequently face ethical challenges when testifying against accused violators of ethics, especially when the accused are police officers. In such circumstances,

witnesses must navigate between their professional responsibilities to provide honest and accurate testimony and the potential consequences that may arise from that testimony. They may encounter moral dilemmas when revealing information that might harm the accused, especially if the accused has a close relationship with the police institution. This can create situations in which expert witnesses feel caught between their ethical obligations and their sense of solidarity with their colleagues within law enforcement.

Moral considerations can also impact the testimony given by expert witnesses. When involved in cases regarding police officers, witnesses may feel compelled to consider the social and professional implications of their testimony. They may feel emotional burdens stemming from their responsibility to uncover the truth while being aware that their testimony could significantly affect the reputation of the individual and the institution involved. In some cases, uncertainties regarding how their testimony will be interpreted or used may lead to hesitations in providing testimony or, in extreme situations, total avoidance of court appearances. To navigate these challenges, expert witnesses must adhere to professional ethical principles, communicate their observations honestly, and strive to provide unbiased testimony unaffected by external pressures.

Testimony provided by expert witnesses can significantly affect the final outcomes of legal proceedings. If such testimony is considered valid and persuasive, it can strengthen one party's arguments in court, whether for the prosecution or defense. Conversely, if the testimony is deemed insufficient or lacking credibility, it can undermine the position of the concerned party. Therefore, it is crucial for expert witnesses to ensure that their testimony is supported by strong evidence and proper methodologies, making it an effective piece of evidence in supporting their arguments.

However, the rejection or acceptance of testimony by judges also depends on the context and quality of that testimony. Judges are responsible for assessing the validity of expert testimony and are not compelled to accept it automatically simply because it comes from an expert. The judge's considerations will be based on various factors, including the experience and credibility of the expert witness, the relevance of the testimony to the case, and its consistency with other existing evidence. In situations that involve law enforcement personnel accused of violating ethics, judges may be more cautious in evaluating testimony, considering the broader implications of the decisions they make. Thus, expert witness testimonies must be designed to not only present facts but also convincingly demonstrate to judges the relevance and truthfulness of the testimony provided.

## **Conclusion**

The conclusions regarding medical expert witness testimony in drug abuse cases involving police officers highlight the critical role of expert witnesses in the evidentiary process, as their testimony serves as both valid legal evidence and a significant influence on judicial decisions. However, challenges such as public stigma, social pressures, and conflicts of interest can compromise the integrity and objectivity of their testimonies. To address this, it is essential to create a supportive environment that safeguards expert witnesses, enabling them to provide honest testimonies free from external influences. Additionally, reforms in legal procedures and protections for expert witnesses are necessary, particularly in sensitive cases involving police institutions. Simplifying complex procedures and enhancing collaboration between health and police institutions will facilitate better data access and understanding of the ethical challenges faced by expert witnesses. Strengthening their role within the legal system is crucial for ensuring

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fair and transparent legal processes, ultimately enhancing legal certainty and public trust in law enforcement institutions.

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