


Criminological Aspects: Strategies for Handling Vehicle Registration Certificate Forgery

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Abstract

Introduction: Vehicle Registration Certificate forgery is a serious crime linked to vehicle theft, not just an administrative violation. From a criminological view, it is driven by the gap between the high demand for cheap transport and strict ownership laws. This inequality creates a black market where stolen vehicles are sold using fraudulent documents to deceive the public.

Purposes of the Research: To find out and describe the efforts and strategies implemented by the Kutalimbaru Sector Police in dealing with the crime of forgery of Vehicle Registration Certificate, both through preventive (prevention) and repressive (enforcement) measures.

Methods of the Research: This empirical juridical study employs a field research method to analyze the relationship between legal regulations and sociological facts. It evaluates law enforcement effectiveness at the Kutalimbaru Police regarding document falsification. Furthermore, a case approach is utilized by examining specific Vehicle Registration Certificate forgery files handled by the precinct to understand the practical application of criminology in legal proceedings.

Findings of the Research: This study offers novelty by examining Kutalimbaru's unique role as a strategic buffer zone connecting Deli Serdang to surrounding areas. Unlike urban-centric research, it analyzes how this specific geographical location serves as a "safe passage" for distributing fraudulent vehicles and a hideout for stolen property before being integrated into the market using forged Vehicle Registration Certificate documents.

Keywords: Criminology; Forgery; Vehicle Registration Certificate.

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INTRODUCTION

Theoretically, this research is important because it not only examines crime from the perspective of criminal law texts (a legalistic approach), but also examines it using a criminological analysis. This research contributes to several contemporary criminological theories. Application of routine activity theory this theory states that crime occurs due to the confluence of three elements: a motivated offender, a suitable target (Vehicle Registration Certificate), and the absence of a capable guardian. This research contributes to extending this theory to the realm of digital/semi-digital document crimes in rural-urban areas such as Kutalimbaru, to examine the extent to which gaps in police oversight and negligence of vehicle owners fuel the perpetrators' motivation to falsify vehicle registration certificates.

Practically, this research has high applicative value, especially in providing tactical and strategic recommendations for law enforcement officers. Preventive Strategy recommendations for Kutalimbaru Police. The results of this research can map the driving

factors of people buying or using fake Vehicle Registration Certificate (for example: low prices, ignorance of how to check authenticity, or the high circulation of vehicles without documents). Based on this mapping, Kutalimbaru Police can design more targeted public education programs, such as socializing the physical characteristics of genuine Vehicle Registration Certificate (holograms, paper types, barcodes) to village residents and used vehicle buying and selling businesses.

Evil has existed since the existence of man and will continue to exist forever as long as man exists. The issue of criminal acts is not only related to violations of legal norms, but also involves violations of other norms such as religious norms, moral norms, and ethical norms. In fact, the crimes committed by humans are a problem that will never be solved. Evil actions can also arise due to the influence and encouragement of various aspects and values in life.¹ Along with the advancement of science, technology, and communication today, we are witnessing a decline in moral values in society as well as a diminishing interest in religion. This can be seen from a number of things, one of which is a criminal act in the form of falsification of documents related to motor vehicles. Therefore, the existence of law enforcement officials is very important to uncover criminal cases that often appear in the community. Crime needs to be tackled and abolished, so efforts are needed to identify the causes of these criminal acts so that they can be overcome more easily and provide sanctions that can have a deterrent effect on perpetrators who violate the norms that apply in society.²

Crime does not only take place among certain people, but has spread everywhere regardless of age, both young and old. This criminal act can occur in places where there is an opportunity and a target is available, so that crime occurs.³ Conventional crimes such as drug use, theft, fraud, and counterfeiting are increasing day by day. The way it is implemented can be said to be very modern, utilizing existing technology to carry out crimes, for example the forgery of Vehicle Registration Certificate (Motor Vehicle Number Registration Letter).⁴ How much negative impact a person has on society as a result of criminal acts and what kind of punishment that person deserves for breaking the rules. Law is a representation of the values of trust, so the authorities in law enforcement need to be trusted as individuals who are able to carry out their duties honestly in enforcing rules based on the value of trust.⁵

The purpose of criminal law is not only carried out through crime, but also Very repressive actions in the form of security measures.⁶ Due to the increasing number of counterfeit crimes, it is important to conduct an assessment of evidence that is consistent with law enforcement methods. This assessment aims to find the substantial truth regarding the case.⁷ Therefore, law enforcement officials need to collect various kinds of evidence to solve a case. In the initial stage, the investigation, investigation, and prosecution process

¹ Syafrinaldi, *Hukum Dan Teori Dalam Masyarakat* (Pekanbaru: UIR Press, 2015). 390.

² Junaidi Lubis, *Kriminologi Dan Penanggulangan Judi*, ed. Abdillah Huzz, I (Yogyakarta: Lumintu Jaya Nagara, 2024). 56.

³ Junaidi Lubis, Eka Faizin Hidayat, *Pengantar Hukum Pidana*, ed. oleh Ade Sathya S. Ishwara Yasmirah Mandasari Saragih, Cetakan Pe (Jakarta: Adikara Cipta Aksa, 2025). 90.

⁴ Dika Diana Putri, "Tinjauan Kriminologis Terhadap Tindak Pidana Pemalsuan Surat Tanda Nomor Kendaraan Bermotor (STNK) Di Wilayah Hukum Polsek Tampan" (Universitas Islam Riau, 2021). 20.

⁵ Barda Nawawi Arief, *Masalah Penegakan Hukum Dan Kebijakan Hukum Pidana Dalam Penanggulangan Kejahatan* (Semarang: Kencana, 2010). 34.

⁶ Fachmi, *Kepastian Hukum Mengenai Putusan Batal Demi Hukum Dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana Indonesia* (Bogor: Ghalia Indonesia Publishing, 2011). 87.

⁷ Hermon Soni, "Proses Penyidikan Tindak Pidana Pemalsuan Terhadap UU Nomor 8 Tahun 1981 Tentang Hukum Acara Pidana" (Universitas Andalas, 2012). 48.

was carried out until the court stage. In fact, the evidence itself is the most crucial element in the trial process to reveal the truth about the case faced by the defendant. Supervision and action are urgently needed, because many individuals are irresponsible in abusing unofficial Vehicle Registration Certificate. Generally, motorcycles and cars that have fake Vehicle Registration Certificate are illegal or stolen vehicles.⁸

One of the methods carried out by the police to handle counterfeiting cases is through traffic operations to maintain order for motorists. Related to the traffic behavior rules regulated in Law Number 22 of 2009 concerning Road Traffic and Transportation, the police are obliged to ensure order for motorists. Therefore, motorists are required to comply with traffic rules and must have a valid ownership document, namely a Motor Vehicle Number Registration Letter (Vehicle Registration Certificate). In article 288 paragraph (1) of Law Number 22 of the year 2009 states that: "Everyone who drives a Motor Vehicle on a road that not equipped with a Motor Vehicle Number Certificate or Letter Motor Vehicle Trial Signs set by the State Police the Republic of Indonesia as referred to in article 106 paragraph (5) letter a sentenced to imprisonment for a maximum of 2 (two) months or a fine a maximum of IDR. 500,000.00 (five hundred thousand rupiah)". By conducting investigations and using evidence, the investigation process in the criminal law system in Indonesia serves as a step to collect evidence and find the perpetrators of crimes. Related to the investigation, this is regulated in Article 1 paragraph (2) of Law Number 8 of 1981 concerning the criminal code. The incident of the case of forging Vehicle Registration Certificate occurred at the Kutalimbaru Police Station in in 2020. In the month around August 2020 until 2025 the Police the Kutalimbaru Sector received a complaint that there was a member of the the community makes fake Vehicle Registration Certificate. Police officers conducted a check places that are targeted for making fake Vehicle Registration Certificate. On August 20 Kutalimbaru Police members succeeded in arresting counterfeiting syndicates Vehicle Registration Certificate carried out by one of the community members named Rian Supriadi alias ian at around 15.30 WIB on Jamin Ginting street.

METHODS OF THE RESEARCH

This approach to examining specific case files refers to the Descriptive-Qualitative Case Study method (Single Case/Careful Design) or in the realm of criminology it is often called Case-Based Criminological Analysis. The analysis process of the Vehicle Registration Certificate (legal document) forgery case files is not carried out by simply reading, but through Qualitative Content Analysis and Crime Script Analysis techniques with systematic steps. This research applies an empirical legal method with a criminological approach to examine social facts in the field. The location of the research is the Kutalimbaru Police Station to obtain the true possible understanding of how to handle the crime of forging Vehicle Registration Certificate.⁹ The data used in this study came from primary sources obtained through in-depth interviews with investigators at the Kutalimbaru Police Criminal Investigation Unit and observations regarding case management. Meanwhile, secondary data includes primary legal materials such as the Criminal Code and Law Number 22 of 2009, as well as secondary legal materials in the form of books, journals, and other sources

⁸ Ajril Todingan, "Tinjauan Kriminologis Penggunaan Tanda Nomor Kendaraan Di Kota Palu," *Jurnal Ilmu Hukum Legal Opinion* 2, No. 2 (2014).

⁹ Suteki, *Metode Penelitian Hukum* (Depok: Raja Grafindo, 2022). 58.

relevant to the field of criminology, as well as statistics taken from the Kutalimbaru police.¹⁰ The selection of sources was carried out by the purposive sampling method, which is the selection of samples based on expertise and authority in investigating cases of fake documents. The data collected was then analyzed qualitatively descriptively through three steps: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn. A criminological approach is applied to analyze the causes of crime as well as the effectiveness of prevention and law enforcement policies implemented by legal authorities in the Kutalimbaru area.¹¹

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Legal Rules in Handling the Crime of Forgery of Vehicle Registration Certificate in the Jurisdiction of the Kutalimbaru Police Station

If the element of intent in falsifying the physical Vehicle Registration Certificate sheet (such as falsifying holograms, falsifying official signatures, or changing the frame/engine number) or making fake number plates is proven, investigators will apply the articles on falsification in the Criminal Code: Article 263 of the Criminal Code (Old) / Article 391 of Law Number 1/2023 (New Criminal Code) concerning Forgery of Documents Paragraph (1): Prosecute intellectual actors or syndicates that produce/make fake Vehicle Registration Certificate with a maximum prison sentence of 6 years. Paragraph (2): Prosecute drivers or vehicle users who intentionally use fake Vehicle Registration Certificate or license plates as if they were genuine and valid, which can cause losses to the state or other parties. (Maximum criminal sentence of 6 years). Article 266 of the Criminal Code (Old) / Article 394 of Law Number 1/2023 (New Criminal Code) implemented if the perpetrator orders the insertion of false information into an authentic deed (official state documents such as a Vehicle Registration Certificate or Motor Vehicle Owner's Book, with a maximum sentence of 7 years. Article 480 of the Criminal Code concerns receiving stolen goods. Considering that forged Vehicle Registration Certificate and license plates in the Kutalimbaru area are often used to conceal the origin of vehicles obtained through criminal activity (such as motorcycle theft or robbery), drivers who purchase "bodong" vehicles with fake Vehicle Registration Certificate at unreasonable prices can be charged with receiving stolen goods, which carries a maximum sentence of 4 years.

The crime of forgery is an act that involves an element of untruth or illegality related to an object that appears to be genuine, but is actually contrary to reality. Acts of counterfeiting are included in the category of violations of applicable norms.¹² The crime of document forgery is a crime that causes unrest and has a serious impact on society. The perpetrators of this crime deliberately create, alter, or falsify documents with the intent to commit fraud or take advantage of them illegally. The main elements of this crime include acts of forgery and special intentions possessed by the perpetrator.¹³ In the context of Indonesian law, regulations related to the crime of document forgery can be found in various laws. Among them are: Article 263 of the Criminal Code, Article 264 of the Criminal Code. In addition, Law Number 24 of 2013 concerning amendments to Law Number 23 of 2006 concerning population administration which regulates the falsification of population documents such

¹⁰ Muhaimin, *Metode Penelitian Hukum*, Mataram: 2020, 56 (Mataram: University Press, 2020). 60-61.

¹¹ Zainudin Ali, *Metode Penelitian Hukum* (Jakarta: Sinar Grafika, 2014). 35.

¹² M Rezky Ramadhan, "Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Tindak Pidana Pemalsuan Tanda Nomor Kendaraan Bermotor Di Kota Pekanbaru," *JOM Fakultas Hukum Universitas Riau* 7, no. 2 (2020): 1–14.

¹³ Kamaruddin Ray Cita, Arifai, "Tindak Pidana Pemalsuan Surat," *Journal Publicuho* 7, no. 1 (2024): 414–24, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.35817/publicuho.v7i1.374>.

as ID cards and birth certificates. This regulation provides a legal basis for law enforcement to take action against perpetrators of the crime of document forgery.

The legal threat to those who commit document forgery varies depending on a number of aspects, including the type of document being forged and the degree of harm incurred. Generally, the perpetrators of this crime can be subject to prison sanctions and/or fines in accordance with existing legal regulations. The purpose of this threat of punishment is to have a deterrent effect on offenders and avoid the recurrence of the same crime in the future.¹⁴ The social and economic impact of document forgery is enormous. Document forgery not only causes direct harm to victims, but can also disrupt the social and economic stability of a country. For example, falsification of population documents can lead to inaccurate population data, potentially affecting development planning and resource distribution in an unfair manner. Therefore, serious handling of document forgery is very crucial for the security and welfare of the community.¹⁵

A non-original letter is a letter whose content does not correspond to reality, either with regard to the signature or the content of the letter, so that such a letter, either in whole or only in part related to its signature or its contents, is made incorrectly as if it came from the individual whose name is listed under the letter.¹⁶ Those who are punished under Article 266 of the Criminal Code are people who provide false information to employees authorized to make certain official deeds or documents. Then, the person with whom deliberately using a letter (deed) that contains incorrect information. Second This must always be proven, that the person acts as if the content the letter is true and the deed can get a loss.¹⁷

The act that is threatened with punishment here is making a false letter or forging letters. Making a fake letter is making one whose contents are not should (not true), or make a letter in such a way, so that indicates the origin of the letter which is not true. Then forge the letter is to change the letter in such a way, that its content becomes different from the content of the or so that the letter becomes different from the original. The act of creating an unauthorized document is the act of making a document that has never existed before, whether it is half or completely untrue. The documents produced from this act are referred to as counterfeit documents. On the other hand, forgery includes any type of action aimed at an existing document, by deleting, altering, or replacing the content of the document so that it becomes different from the original. This document is known as a forged document.¹⁸

Every individual who operates a motor vehicle is required to have several important files, including a Motor Vehicle Number Certificate, which is commonly abbreviated as Vehicle Registration Certificate. In Article 288 of Law Number 22 of 2009 it is explained that: (1) Every person who drives a Motor Vehicle on the Road that is not equipped with a Motor Vehicle Number Certificate or Motor Vehicle Trial Certificate determined by the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia as intended in article 106 paragraph (5) letter a shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a maximum of 2 (two) months or a maximum fine of IDR.500,000.00 (five hundred thousand rupiah). From the explanation above, the Sunggal

¹⁴ Agus Prasetyo, "Tantangan Dalam Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Kasus Pemalsuan Surat," *Majalah Hukum Indonesia* 15, no. 3 (2018).

¹⁵ Mochamad Supriyanto, "Regulasi Hukum Tentang Pemalsuan Dokumen Di Indonesia," *Media Hukum* 7, no. 2 (2018).

¹⁶ muhammad Firmansyah, "Tinjauan Kriminologis Terhadap Tindak Pidana Pemalsuan Surat Kematian Di Kabupaten Gowa" (Universitas Bosowa Makassar, 2023). 52.

¹⁷ Junaidi Lubis, *Bunga Rampai Quote Hukum*. (Salatiga, Jawa Tengah: Palaray Media Mahardika, 2024). 48.

¹⁸ Yonandha Adi Yuliansyah, "Rekontruksi Regulasi Penegakan Hukum Tindak Pidana Pemalsuan Surat Kendaraan Bermotor Berbasis Nilai Keadilan" (Universitas Islam Sulttan Agung, 2024). 133.

Police and their team are trying to deal with crimes that occur in the jurisdiction of the Kutalimbaru Police Station. Since 2021, the Police have received five reports, all of which have been successfully completed to the court stage. This shows the commitment of the Kutalimbaru Police to maintain security and order in people's lives, which needs to be continued by the police at any time.

B. Efforts to Counter the Crime of Forgery of Vehicle Number Plates by the Kutalimbaru Sector Police

In line with this, the Kutalimbaru Police also routinely communicate with the Medan Police to provide information about any progress in the legal area of the Kutalimbaru Police that has the potential to disturb public peace. From the report, the Medan Police also responded swiftly, namely by conducting direct patrols in areas that are at risk of crimes of document forgery and other crimes.

The policy on law enforcement aims to take action and prosecute those involved in the act of falsifying documents in accordance with applicable law. Procedures in law enforcement include investigation, arrest, prosecution, and judicial proceedings for perpetrators. The existence of effective and fair law enforcement in handling cases of document forgery is very important to provide justice for victims and create a deterrent effect for criminals.¹⁹ Law enforcement measures for document forgery cases involve several important stages, namely First, investigation which is the first step in the law enforcement process. Authorities, such as the police or other law enforcement agencies, conduct investigations to gather evidence and information regarding cases of document forgery that have been reported or identified. This investigative process includes interviews with witnesses, document analysis, and data collection necessary to strengthen legal arguments, furthermore, after the investigation is complete, the next step is to make an arrest of individuals suspected of being involved in the act of falsifying documents. The arrest was made in accordance with applicable legal procedures and based on evidence that had been collected during the investigation. This arrest action aims to stop the activities of the perpetrator and prevent further losses.²⁰

After the arrest, the prosecution process began. Prosecution is carried out by the public prosecutor or other authorities in charge of handling criminal cases. They will gather the necessary evidence to prove the guilt of the perpetrators in court. This process is an important step in ensuring that the perpetrators of the crime of forgery are faced with a fair and transparent legal process. Finally, the court process was carried out to prosecute the perpetrators of the crime of forgery of letters. In court, the judge will consider all the evidence and arguments presented by both sides to make a fair decision. The court decision can be in the form of a verdict of guilt or not guilty, as well as the determination of punishment in accordance with the provisions of applicable law.²¹

The importance of efficient and fair application of the law in dealing with the problem of document forgery is not only to ensure justice for victims, but also to provide a preventive effect for law violators. By strictly enforcing the law, the public will feel safe and protected from the threat of falsifying documents, and violators will think about the legal

¹⁹ Bambang Santoso, "Strategi Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Tindak Pidana Pemalsuan Surat," *Jurnal Hukum Nasional* 14, no. 3 (2019).

²⁰ Dian Fitriyani, "Program Rehabilitasi Dan Reintegrasi Bagi Pelaku Pemalsuan Surat," *Jurnal Ilmiah Keadilan* 9, no. 1 (2020).

²¹ Indriat Retno W., "Analisis Pelaksanaan Tahap Ii Bagian Umum: Penyerahan Tersangka Dan Barang Bukti Di Kejaksaan Negeri Payakumbuh," *Court Review: Jurnal Penelitian Hukum* 5, no. 6 (2025): 247-57.

consequences before committing illegal actions.²² This policy is designed to support individuals involved in the crime of document forgery to be able to reintegrate into society after completing their sentences. The rehabilitation process can include knowledge and guidance to make the perpetrators aware of the mistakes they have made, as well as skills training to help them obtain legitimate employment and avoid involvement in illegal activities in the future.²³

One of the important rehabilitation steps is counseling and coaching. Through this activity, perpetrators of criminal acts are given a deeper understanding of the consequences of their actions, as well as the negative impact they have on both victims and society in general. By realizing their mistakes, it is hoped that the perpetrator will become more responsible for his actions and more motivated to change into a better person. Social support and reintegration into society are also an important part of rehabilitation policies. Perpetrators of criminal acts need to be supported and given the opportunity to improve relationships with family, friends, and the surrounding community. A supportive environment and acceptance from the community can help offenders feel more motivated to live a positive life after serving their sentence. Through an effective rehabilitation policy, it is hoped that perpetrators of the crime of forgery can get a second chance to improve themselves and return to becoming productive and responsible members of society.

The importance of collaboration between law enforcement agencies, the government, and other institutions is also part of the policy in dealing with the crime of document forgery. This cooperation includes data exchange, coordination in law enforcement actions, and strengthening synergy in prevention and recovery efforts.²⁴ Strengthening cooperation in prevention and recovery is also a crucial element of collaboration between agencies. Through collaboration, law enforcement agencies, governments, and other organizations can create more comprehensive and effective prevention programs, while ensuring that perpetrators of document forgery receive appropriate rehabilitation after serving their sentences. Cooperation between institutions also plays a role in finding and closing legal loopholes or weaknesses in the system that may be exploited by document forgery perpetrators. By coming together, law enforcement agencies and governments can formulate policies that are more comprehensive and responsive to dynamic changes in the world of document forgery crimes.

CONCLUSION

The crime of forging Vehicle Registration Certificate in the jurisdiction of the Kutalimbaru Police is driven by the interaction of various criminogenic factors. Economic factors are the main motive for perpetrators to get quick profits or have a vehicle at a low price. Sociologically, this is supported by the legal culture of the community that is still permissive towards the use of "letter next door" vehicles for transportation needs in suburban/plantation areas. In addition, the opportunity factor arises due to the geographical location of Kutalimbaru, which is a buffer road, making it a strategic area to

²² Arhenza Dwi Utama, "Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Pelaku Tindak Pidana Pemalsuan Surat Hak Milik Tanah," *Al-Zayn: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial & Hukum* 4, no. 1 (2026): 4994-5006, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.61104/alz.v4i1.3944>.

²³ Emy Widya Kusumaningrum Sp Eko Sopyonono, Budhi Wisaksono, "Kebijakan Hukum Pidana dalam Upaya Penanggulangan Tindak Pidana Pemalsuan Ijazah," *Diponegoro Law Journal* 5, no. 3 (2016): 1-19, <https://media.neliti.com/media/publications/19404-ID-kebijakan-hukum-pidana-dalam-upaya-penanggulangan-tindak-pidana-pemalsuan-ijazah.pdf>.

²⁴ Jhon Bilistolen, et. al "Analisis Yuridis Terhadap Tipologi Kejahatan Konvensional Dan Transnasional Pada Kasus Tppo Ntt-Malaysia Tahun 2024," *Rewang Rencang : Jurnal Hukum Lex Generalis* 6, no. 7 (2025): 1-20.

distribute vehicles resulting from crimes with fake documents. The treatment taken includes two main approaches: Prevention Efforts: Implemented by providing information to the public about the difference between real and fake Vehicle Registration Certificate, as well as increasing surveillance in critical locations that are considered as rat paths for the spread of illegal vehicles. Enforcement Efforts: Carried out with the strict application of the law against individuals involved in the forgery and use of unauthorized documents, which is often the starting point for uncovering the criminal network of motor vehicle theft.

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