



APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIR CONTENTS AT BANDA ACEH SYAR'ITYAH COURT

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.62567/micjo.v2i2.768>

Abstract

To determine the rightful heirs must be determined in court voluntarily as regulated in Article 49 Letter b of Law Number 3 of 2006 concerning the Authority of Religious Courts. However, in reality there are heirs who are unwilling to submit an application for the determination of heirs, resulting in the obstruction of the rights of other heirs. The purpose of writing this thesis is to explain the procedures and special requirements in submitting a contentious determination of heirs, to explain the evidence of the applicants against the heirs, and to explain the efforts made to overcome obstacles in determining heirs contentiously. This research is an empirical legal research, data is obtained directly through interviews and literature reviews. Data is collected and then analyzed qualitatively. The results of this study indicate that there are still many heirs who submit the determination of heirs voluntarily with a lack of parties and result in their decisions being declared unacceptable, but in terms of contention there are still many heirs, judges and lawyers who do not know that there are provisions in the Circular of the Supreme Court (SEMA) Number 5 of 2021- Formulation of the Law of the Religious Chamber-2.b there are special procedures and requirements and proof in the submission as well as obstacles and efforts that must be made in the application for determination of heirs contentiously which is different from voluntary. It is recommended that the Sharia Court provide information regarding the new provisions in submitting applications to both lawyers and interested parties in order to obtain legal certainty because many parties do not yet know these provisions.

Keywords: Determination of heirs, Contentious, Sharia Court.

1. INTRODUCTION

The distribution of inheritance in Indonesian society until now still often causes conflict between heirs, many problems occur regarding the struggle for inheritance such as each heir feels that they have not received the inheritance fairly or there is a disagreement between each heir. As in Article 171 letter b of Presidential Instruction Number 1 of 1991 Compilation of Islamic Law determines that "The heir is a person who at the time of his death or who is declared dead based on a Muslim court decision, leaves heirs and inheritance".



The determination of heirs is regulated in Law Number 50 of 2009, Law Number 3 of 2006 concerning Amendments to Law Number 7 of 1989 concerning Religious Courts (Law No. 3 of 2006) and the Civil Code. An application for the determination of heirs is a common legal effort carried out by the general public which is submitted to the court voluntarily, but each application for the determination of heirs depends on the religion of the parties, such as if the parties submitting the application for the determination of heirs are Muslims, it will be the authority of the religious court or if in the province of Aceh it is called the Sharia Court and if the parties are non-Muslims, it is the authority of the district court (Iman Jauhari, 2015).

Basically, the determination of heirs as in Article 49 Letter b of Law No. 3 of 2006 concerning Amendments to Law Number 7 of 1989 concerning Religious Courts which states that "the determination of heirs for Muslims is made by the Religious Court or the Sharia Court upon the request of the heirs, while the determination of heirs of non-Muslim religions is made by the district court as in Article 833 of the Civil Code, Articles 830 to Article 1130 of the Civil Code which determine how the inheritance will be distributed, in addition to certain aspects of inheritance, the determination and separation of assets in certain regions are regulated in Presidential Instruction (Inpres) No. 1 of 1991 concerning the Compilation of Islamic Law (Cici Paramida, 2013).

In general, the requirements for an application for the determination of heirs are that the parties can submit an application for the determination of heirs to the competent court, a religious court for Muslims, and a district court for non-Muslims. There are many types of applications for determination submitted to the court, but this study will explain a legal product issued by the Religious Court or the Sharia Court, namely an application submitted by a Muslim heir but there is no dispute in it

However, the problem is that in the midst of the process of managing the determination of heirs, there are parties who refuse to jointly submit an application for the determination of heirs voluntarily, which in the application letter for the determination of heirs should be referred to as the applicant or applicants if more than one person, but in practice there is one party who is unwilling, refuses and is not even at his domicile and deliberately disappears to submit an application for the determination of heirs jointly or voluntarily.

In SEMA No. 5 of 2021 The Religious Chamber Law Formulation 2.b explains to the parties in the application for the determination of heirs which in essence explains "The application for the determination of heirs must be submitted by all heirs or by some heirs who are given power of attorney by other heirs. If it is known that there are heirs who do not provide power of attorney, then the case must be submitted in a contentious form". Thus, when one party refuses and does not want to voluntarily submit an application for the determination of the heir, it results in the failure to implement the legal rules as commonly interpreted as rules of life that determine how humans should behave and act in society so that their interests and the interests of others are protected.

If observed in a legal event that will be studied, there are general legal regulations or the reality of what should or should be done, namely submitting a voluntary determination of heirs, while in this case there is a reality that is not in accordance with what should be done where one party does not submit and does not want to voluntarily jointly submit a determination of heirs for the common interest (Sudikno Mertokusumo, 2020).

As the data obtained at the Banda Aceh Sharia Court on October 8, 2024, against parties who submitted applications for determination of heirs from 2021 to 2024, there are still many applications that are decided as unacceptable. because the judge's policy in examining cases of



applications for determination of heirs which at the time of being studied and examined there was a lack of parties, namely one of the heirs who was not included in the application for determination of heirs, the judge took the policy to order the applicant to withdraw the application in order to reduce the costs of the party in submitting an application for determination of heirs because if it was decided it would be declared unacceptable.

This results in a waste of time and money because if the decision is declared unacceptable, the party submitting the application for determination of heirs must re-submit and revise the application for determination of heirs and prepare evidence that can be considered by the judge in examining and deciding the case.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses an empirical legal research method, namely examining applicable legal provisions and what happens in reality in society, and using a sociological legal approach method (Ronny Hanitijo Soemitro, 1990). Data were obtained from interviews with respondents and literature studies. Data analysis uses qualitative methods that focus on in-depth observation (Riduwan, 2010).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Procedures and Special Conditions for Determining Heirs Contentiously for Heirs Who Do Not Submit an Application for Determining Heirs to Still Obtain Their Rights

Procedure is a process or steps of a series of activities that are being carried out in order to achieve the final goal, basically the application for the determination of heirs is submitted voluntarily through the procedure of submission, proof, and also getting a final decision in the form of a determination. While the special requirements are one of the requirements that must be prepared in order to successfully obtain a decision that can be accepted and can be considered by the panel of judges in examining the application for the determination of heirs in a contentious manner.

According to the Deputy Head of the Banda Aceh Sharia Court, Fauziati, basically the term in determining heirs through a lawsuit that is not disputed in it is "an application for the determination of heirs in a contentious manner", as regulated in the Circular of the Supreme Court (SEMA) Number 5 of 2021- Legal Formulation of the Religious Chamber-2.b, which states "An application for the determination of heirs must be submitted by all heirs or by some heirs who are authorized by other heirs. If it is known that there are heirs who do not give power of attorney, then the case must be filed in a contentious form". These provisions also serve as a reference and a magic card for judges in providing justice, certainty, benefits and legal protection to people who wish to apply for the determination of heirs without the participation of other heirs (Faziati, Interview, 2024).

As stated in the theory of legal certainty put forward by Utrecht regarding the provisions so that there is no arbitrariness towards the rights of others if the application is submitted without involving the party that should participate in the application, thus the rules that have been determined lead to actions that are permitted or not permitted and provide legal protection for individuals from misuse of applicable statutory provisions. Unfortunately, there are still many judges and lawyers who do not know the provisions of the law because there are no special rules in the legislation but only a Circular of the Supreme Court and are only known to judges in court. If one of the parties submits a contentious determination, it becomes something



new for the judge examining the case, as well as the lawyer who submitted it will be difficult at the stage of proof in order to convince the panel of judges.

If you pay attention, there are slight differences in the procedures and special requirements for submitting an application to determine heirs contentiously, namely:

a. Procedure

The procedure in the trial of an application for determination of heirs is very different from the trial of an application for determination as usual because the trial goes through stages such as:

- 1) Summons the party being sued or if in the lawsuit it is called "respondent".
- 2) If the party being sued is not present, they will be summoned again, if the party being sued is no longer domiciled at their original address, they will be summoned via broadcast summons.
- 3) If the party is present, mediation will be held first.
- 4) If mediation is not achieved, then a regular trial will be held, namely reading the lawsuit, the respondent's response, reply, duplicate, proof of letters and witnesses, conclusions and decisions.
- 5) In the examination of the application for determination of heirs in a contentious manner, the examining judge must be in the form of a panel, not a single judge.
- 6) In the application for determination of heirs in a contentious manner, if one of the parties does not accept the judge's decision, there are other legal remedies, namely appeal, cassation, and judicial review.

b. Special Terms

Special conditions for submitting an application for contentious determination of heirs are contained in the evidence.

- 1) In submitting an application for determination of heirs contentiously, one or more parties must truly refuse, refuse and refuse to be authorized incidentally by other heirs to submit an application for determination of heirs.
- 2) If one of the heirs is no longer domiciled, then an application for determination of heirs contentiously can be submitted.
- 3) There must be no dispute over ownership rights in the lawsuit, because the final decision only states the determination.

In this case, so that the party being sued, namely the respondent, can still obtain his rights in the decision, the respondent must be designated as an heir and provide access to the respondent to also be able to obtain his inheritance rights after the decision is issued for the interests of managing the deceased's estate. With this decision, it can provide certainty, justice, benefits and legal protection to the parties (Zuhra, Interview, 2024).

In that case, there is justice for the parties to the case that provides equality but not equality, namely in accordance with proportional rights, namely that all people, every citizen before the law are equal according to their abilities and achievements that have been carried out as explained in the theory by Aristotle. There is a Supreme Court Regulation (Perma) Number 7 of 2022 concerning Electronic Administration of Cases and Trials in Court (e-court) where parties who wish to file a lawsuit or application can attend the trial electronically and can also do so conventionally, making it easier for the parties and saving costs to attend the trial because it can be accessed through an electronic system.



According to Juni Kurnia as Substitute Registrar at the Banda Aceh Sharia Court, there is a difference between the determination of heirs voluntarily and the determination of heirs contentiously in the case registration data if the determination of heirs voluntarily in the electronic data is clearly written with the code "P3HP/determination of heirs" but if it is contentious then the data listed in the electronic data is "others" so it will be very difficult to find out what case was submitted if searched on the Supreme Court Directorate page because there are other applications listed in the data (Juni Kurnia, Interview, 2024).

This was also conveyed by Ratna Juita as the Clerk of the Banda Aceh Sharia Court, which according to data obtained after the enactment of the Supreme Court Circular (SEMA) Number 5 of 2021-Religious Chamber Legal Formulation-2. b, there are still many parties who do not know how to submit an application for determining heirs if there are not enough parties, they can also submit a contentious application. If you look at the case registration data at the Banda Aceh Sharia Court, there are still very few who have submitted applications for determining heirs contentiously, the data explains that from 2021 to 2024 there were only 3 (three) cases of applications for determining heirs contentiously, including case registration number 152/Pdt.G/2023/MS.Bna the decision was granted, Registration Number 56/Pdt.G/2024/MS.Bna the decision was granted, and Registration Number 199/Pdt.G/2024/MS.Bna the decision was revoked. For this reason, it is recommended that parties who are less knowledgeable about this matter, in order to make the administration easier, can consult with a Legal Advisor and provide power of attorney or after consulting, can also directly submit it personally without being authorized by a Legal Advisor (Ratna Juita, Interview, 2024).

One of the parties who filed an application for the determination of heirs contentiously, namely Huzaimah Binti Bintang, once submitted a statement that by being able to file an application for the determination of heirs contentiously, it can facilitate the management of the inheritance of the testator, because if an application for the determination of heirs is submitted voluntarily, there is a lack of parties and of course the final decision is "declaring the applicant's application cannot be accepted" considering the lack of parties, namely one of the heirs who did not participate in the submission of the application for the determination of heirs voluntarily.

Likewise, by filing an application for the determination of heirs with a lack of parties but still submitting an application for the determination of heirs voluntarily, which is known by the judge at the time of proof of the letters and witnesses submitted, it turns out that there are heirs who are not included, resulting in the final decision being declared unacceptable, because the policy of the panel of judges examining the case provides tolerance, based on its policy it provides advice to withdraw the application, then the party who filed it withdraws it in order to revise the application, so in the final decision the panel of judges states "the applicants' applications are declared withdrawn".

According to Huzaimah Binti Bintang, the application for determining heirs was a contentious one where one of the heirs did not participate and even removed himself from his domicile so that the process of managing the heir's inheritance really required a decision by the court, because he did not understand the mechanism for submitting an heir determination and then submitted it directly by making a request for determining heirs voluntarily but the judge's decision stated that the applicant's application could not be accepted. Then Huzaimah Binti Bintang consulted with a legal advisor and authorized the legal advisor to submit the



application in a comprehensive manner and the panel of judges accepted the applicant's application in its entirety (Ratna Juita, Interview, 2025).

So as to provide legal certainty to Huzaimah Binti Bintang to manage the heir's inheritance and provide benefit and justice as well as legal protection to Huzaimah and also to the heirs who are being sued as the respondent, they also get their rights to the heir's inheritance.

3.2 Evidence of the Petitioners Against the Heirs Who Did Not Participate in the Trial

Proof is the process of presenting valid evidence to strengthen the truth of the argument that is the main point in a lawsuit. The goal is to provide certainty and confidence to the judge so that he can consider a decision. Civil law provides legal protection to prevent vigilante actions and to create an orderly atmosphere. One of the duties of a judge in court to resolve a civil case is to investigate whether or not there is a legal relationship regarding the basis of the lawsuit/application filed by the plaintiff/applicant. According to Ridwan Syahrani, what is meant by proof is the presentation of valid evidence based on the law to the judge examining the case in order to provide the truth and certainty of an event (Ridwan Syahrani, 2009).

In a contentious application for the determination of heirs at the time of proof, it must truly convince the panel of judges examining the case that it is true that one of the heirs is proven not to have participated, does not want to submit a determination and is also not present at the trial even though he has been properly summoned. According to Herwansyah as a lawyer who has filed a contentious determination of heirs at the Banda Aceh Sharia Court, it is very difficult to convince the judge that it is true that one of the heirs being sued, namely the respondent, does not want to participate in submitting a voluntary determination, because he must prove the truth in court. Herwansyah has also filed an application for contentious determination of heirs which in this case is registered at the Banda Aceh Sharia Court clerk with registration number 152/Pdt.G/2023/MS Bna. In which his lawsuit asked the panel of judges to grant the determination application submitted by the applicant and so on by submitting evidence of the applicant's letter with special evidence to prove the defendant being sued in the form of a statement issued by the Village Head/Keuchik which in essence contains information that the defendant really lives in the Village/Gampong and until now his whereabouts are unknown (Hermansyah, Interview, 2024).

At the time of proof, not only documentary evidence such as identity cards (KTP), family cards of all heirs, death certificates of the testator and other deceased heirs, property ownership certificates such as certificates/deeds of sale/savings books and others as well as witnesses. But there is something that is most important to prove, namely proving that the respondent is also an heir and is no longer domiciled in the place of origin. Juwandi Mukhar as a lawyer explained that for this proof, a statement letter must be made from the Village Head/Keuchik in the Village where the respondent previously lived, with the contents of the letter confirming that the name of the respondent is a resident of the Village and is currently no longer domiciled in the Village of origin. This statement letter is submitted in court and becomes a reference for the judge's belief in examining the case of the application for the determination of heirs contentiously in the submission of the applicant's evidence, a code is made, namely (P-1, P-2, P-3, and so on) if the respondent submits evidence then the code is (T-1, T-2, T-3, and so on) (Juwandi Mukhar, Interview, 2024).

In the decision of the application for the determination of heirs in a contentious manner which was once submitted to the Banda Aceh Sharia Court by Herwansyah with case registration number 152/Pdt.G/2023/MS.Bna with a brief chronology the respondent did not



want to submit a voluntary determination of heirs and after being contacted and visited at his domicile the respondent was no longer at his domicile and his position was unknown until now, then the applicant through his attorney filed an application for the determination of heirs in a contentious manner at the Banda Aceh Sharia Court where the applicant's application was granted by the panel of judges.

Observing the decision above, both the applicant and the respondent receive their rights and provide legal certainty to the applicant and the respondent as legitimate heirs which are one product of law or more specifically are products of legislation that are able to regulate the legal interests of every human being in society and must be obeyed even though there is injustice if the respondent feels this because legal certainty is a definite condition both in its provisions and its provisions as explained by Gustav Radbruch in his theory of legal certainty. As conveyed by Ali Yacob Bin Ali Basyah who was once sued in a contentious application for determining heirs, he said that even though he was not present at the trial and was sued as the defendant, if there were assets being managed in the form of money or goods, he could question these assets at the Religious Court/Sharia Court because these assets would of course be deposited in court and could be requested through a written application for the assets deposited in court (Ali Yacob Bin Ali Basyah, Interview, 2024).

In this context, there is also inherent justice which is against the absent party regarding the assets that have been determined by the court if the party does not take or does not know about the assets even though the rights have been obtained by the court with its authority can deposit the assets and at any time if the party wants to take the assets can take care of it in the court therefore in addition to getting legal certainty, also getting justice, benefits which are also the most important things in a legal objective as stated by Utrecht in the benefits of providing a place to consider as fairly as possible concrete and beneficial things and providing happiness felt by the community from the law itself such as the theory that is based on the utilitarianism school. And also in this case there is legal protection for the parties involved in the case with the aim of providing protection for human rights so that they are not harmed as according to Sajipto Raharjo and also as stated in the 1945 Constitution regarding legal protection for the Community which is stated in Article 28D paragraph (1) namely "everyone has the right to recognition, guarantees, protection and certainty of fair law and equal treatment before the law".

3.3 Efforts Made to Overcome Obstacles in Applications for Determination of Heirs Contentiously

There are obstacles that occur in submitting an application for determination of heirs contentiously because the party being sued does not want to participate and does not want to provide incidental power of attorney to the party who wants to obtain determination of heirs at the Religious Court/Sharia Court, including (Taufik Bin Yahya, Interview, 2024). :

- a. The party invited to submit the determination does not want and feels no need to be determined as an heir.
 - b. One of the parties disappears from the domicile and his/her address is no longer known
- If this happens, it will be difficult to file for the determination of heirs so that it is difficult to obtain legal certainty and the rights of heirs to the assets left by the testator.

According to Herwansyah, there are also external and internal obstacles in the application for the determination of heirs in a contested manner, including:

- 1) External Obstacles



- a) Legal limitations, namely the laws and regulations governing inheritance are still based on the Civil Code and Law No. 1 of 1974 concerning Marriage and the Compilation of Islamic Law.
 - b) Third party interests such as third party rights related to inheritance, such as mortgage rights or usage rights.
 - c) Legal processes in the submission of examinations and determination of heirs by the court such as proof.
 - d) Involvement of authorities, namely the intervention of authorities such as notaries who say they can take care of the process of determining the heirs.
- 2) Internal Barriers
- a) Family agreement, which is an agreement between family members that can influence the determination of heirs.
 - b) Limited ability such as legal incompetence and incompetence of the party entitled to receive the inheritance.
 - c) Openness of communication, such as lack of effective communication between family members about the desires and needs of each of their inheritance rights.
 - d) Family conflict between family members that can influence the process of determining heirs.
 - e) Strong influence of emotions and ego in the process of determining heirs

Efforts that can be made to overcome obstacles in the application for determining heirs contentiously are:

- 1) Heirs can ask for help from a lawyer for information or legal counsel related to the inheritance.
- 2) Collect important documents such as death certificates and heir identities.
- 3) Invite heirs who refuse to discuss and ask for power of attorney so that there is no need for a contentious process.
- 4) If they still refuse, submit a contentious application with strong evidence to guarantee the rights of all parties.

According to Rahmat who once filed an application for the determination of heirs contentiously at the Banda Aceh Sharia Court, there were obstacles in the trial process, namely if the deceased testator had 2 (people) wives and all of them were still alive. From the testator's marriage with his two wives, each was blessed with children so that the surviving wife and children as heirs had to take care of the inheritance of the testator, thus the egos of each of the wives and children resulted in the obstruction of the process of determining the heirs. Then, Rahmat tried to file the determination of the heirs contentiously after consulting with a legal advisor who at that time the application for the determination of heirs contentiously was submitted without being authorized by an attorney. Where the applicants, namely Rahmat, his mother (Fatimah) and his brother Farid then sued Siti Murni and Rifkiansyah as heirs with different mothers.

There were obstacles when the defendant was summoned because the respondent was unwilling to attend the trial, and was not represented by his attorney. Which made it difficult for the panel of judges to issue a determination. Then the panel of judges gave an opinion to withdraw the case and try to resolve it amicably because without strong evidence the judge could not give a determination to the applicants to be determined as heirs of the deceased



testator. So Rahmat, Farid and his mother Fatimah withdrew their lawsuit, and the panel of judges stated that the case for the application for determination of heirs in contention was withdrawn. And took another effort, namely resolving it amicably through the village apparatus (Rahmad, Farid, Fatimah, Interview, 2024).

According to Siti Murni and her son Syahrial who had been sued by Rahmat, their absence was due to fear of attending because if they had reached the court, it seemed that there would be a punishment such as imprisonment, because Siti Murni did not understand civil cases and was afraid to attend the trial even though the summons from the court had arrived but they were afraid to attend the Banda Aceh Sharia Court. Then after Rahmat came to the house with the village apparatus to discuss matters related to the management of inheritance and an agreement was reached to re-submit the application for determination of heirs voluntarily (Siti Murni, Interview, 2024).

As with the submission of several parties who have sued and been sued, it is basically difficult to convince the judge to obtain a determination of heirs if the application is submitted contentiously, so the effort that can be made is to discuss it in a family way and not prioritize each other's egos. If one party is still difficult to discuss in a good or family way, then they can submit a determination of heirs contentiously but it is more advisable to give power to a legal representative because they are the ones who understand the trial process better (Huzaimah, Interview, 2024).

4. CONCLUSION

Many people still do not know that the determination of heirs can be submitted contentiously if there are heirs who refuse or do not want to submit it voluntarily. According to SEMA No. 5 of 2021, the application must be submitted by all or some of the heirs who have received power of attorney. If there are those who do not give power of attorney, then it must be submitted contentiously. Before the examination, mediation is carried out first. If mediation fails, the case is continued. A contentious application can only be submitted if the respondent truly refuses voluntarily and his address is no longer known.

In providing evidence against the applicants to convince the judge against the defendant who is being sued whose whereabouts are no longer known and no longer lives at his original domicile address, it is very necessary to submit in court at the time of providing evidence, namely a statement letter from the Village Head/Keuchik which in the letter explains and explains the truth that the defendant is indeed a resident of a village and currently his domicile is no longer known.

To overcome obstacles in the application for the determination of heirs contentiously, it is advisable to consult with a legal advisor because it is difficult to convince the judge without the presence of the respondent. Another effort is to resolve it amicably to reach an agreement, so that the application can be submitted voluntarily by all parties.

Courts are advised to be more active in conveying information regarding new provisions and legal bases, especially regarding inheritance management in religious courts/sharia courts, for the sake of legal certainty for justice seekers. For example, SEMA No. 5 of 2021 is still not well known, both by judges and legal advisors, so it needs to be socialized more widely so that it is useful in handling inheritance cases.



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