



## Reconstruction of a Normative Regulatory Model for Juvenile Cybercrime within the Indonesian Criminal Justice System: A Restorative and Procedural Approach

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**Abstract**

**Background:** The rapid development of digital technology has generated new forms of cybercrime involving children as perpetrators. In Indonesia, existing legal frameworks, particularly the Criminal Code and Law No. 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions, have not fully accommodated the dual position of children as offenders and subjects entitled to special protection.

**Objective:** This study aims to reconstruct a regulatory model for cybercrimes committed by children based on restorative justice and the best interests of the child.

**Methods:** This study applies a normative juridical method using statutory, conceptual, and comparative approaches. It examines Indonesian regulations, relevant doctrines, international child protection standards, and comparative legal frameworks from the United Kingdom, Australia, and Malaysia.

**Results:** The findings show that Indonesian law remains largely retributive and lacks specific procedural guidelines for digital offenses involving minors. The proposed model emphasizes child-sensitive digital forensic procedures, diversion mechanisms, digital rehabilitation programs, and harmonization between the ITE Law and the Juvenile Criminal Justice System Law.

**Conclusion:** The proposed framework integrates criminal liability, child protection, restorative justice, and digital literacy. Future research should empirically test this model through field studies involving legal practitioners and juvenile court data.

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### INTRODUCTION

The swift evolution of information and communication technology has brought about remarkable social and economic benefits while simultaneously fostering the emergence of new patterns of criminal activity, particularly cybercrimes involving minors. As members of the digital generation children actively engage in online environments but frequently do so without adequate supervision. According to APJII (2023), approximately 78.19% of Indonesian internet users are in the 13-18 age group, and Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) recorded 3,878 cybercrime-related cases involving children in 2020-2022, with a 40% year-on-year upward trend demonstrating that digital involvement of Indonesian children increasingly carries serious legal risks, guidance, or awareness of the potential legal implications of their actions (Sumali et al., 2026). This situation positions them in a dual and vulnerable role as both possible

victims and perpetrators of digital misconduct. In Indonesia, the current legal framework comprising the Criminal Code (*KUHP*), Law No. 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE Law), and Law No. 11 of 2012 as amended by Law No. 19 of 2016 and further amended by Law No. 1 of 2024, on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System (SPPA Law) has yet to establish a comprehensive and cohesive legal paradigm that effectively addresses the complexities of children's involvement in cyber offenses. The ITE Law emphasizes a repressive and evidentiary model of enforcement, prioritizing digital proof and punitive measures, while the SPPA Law promotes diversion and restorative justice rooted in child protection principles. The tension between these differing orientations has resulted in normative disharmony and procedural uncertainty, creating challenges for law enforcement in determining appropriate legal responses when minors are implicated in cybercrime cases (Salsabila, 2024), on normative disharmony in Indonesian cybercrime enforcement (Satoto & Santiago, 2025; Frensh, 2022; Vuorikari et al., 2016).

Previous studies addressing the regulation of juvenile participation in cybercrime have predominantly concentrated on two main dimensions: criminal liability and child protection. Certain scholars emphasize the importance of restorative justice principles, focusing on diversion and rehabilitation, while others argue for the enforcement of stringent penal sanctions as a means of deterring unlawful behavior in the digital realm. However, these scholarly discussions remain fragmented and partial, failing to develop a comprehensive and unified regulatory framework that harmonizes the rapid evolution of technology with the unique legal standing, psychological development, and moral awareness of children. The principal deficiency in existing research lies in the absence of a specialized procedural framework specifically designed to manage cyber offenses committed by minors, coupled with the lack of diversion mechanisms that incorporate digital rehabilitation and educational-preventive strategies into law enforcement policies. The acceleration of technological advancement has profoundly altered the ways people interact, communicate, and behave, leading to the emergence of new patterns of criminal conduct in the digital sphere (Sari & Priscilia, 2021). Within this dynamic context, children stand in a dual position as individuals highly vulnerable to online exploitation and simultaneously as potential offenders in cyberspace. Their involvement in such activities is frequently driven by curiosity, peer influence, or a limited understanding of ethical norms and legal consequences associated with their online actions (Ode et al., 2026; Ramli, 2006).

Indonesia's existing legal architecture comprising the Criminal Code (*KUHP*), Law No. 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE Law), and Law No. 11 of 2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System (SPPA Law) remains inadequate to address the complex and multifaceted nature of cybercrimes involving minors. Each of these legal instruments operates within its own distinct normative domain: the *KUHP* reflects a retributive orientation focused on punishment, the ITE Law prioritizes technical aspects of digital offenses and evidentiary procedures, and the SPPA Law is founded upon diversion and restorative justice principles. The absence of coordination and integration among these laws has produced normative fragmentation and procedural uncertainty, especially in determining the appropriate legal pathway for minors involved in cyber offenses. Furthermore, most existing research examines criminal responsibility and child protection as separate issues, failing to formulate a comprehensive and integrative regulatory model that connects these two dimensions within the rapidly evolving digital environment (Hertianto, 2021; Sulistiya & Sodikin, 2025). This gap underscores the urgent need for reconstructing the paradigm of criminal responsibility for children engaged in cybercrime, shifting away from a punitive framework toward a restorative and educational model that aligns with the psychological maturity, social context, and digital exposure of young offenders (Nooryanto et al., 2023).

Consequently, this research aims to reconstruct an integrated legal and procedural framework that ensures justice, protection, and rehabilitation for minors involved in cyber offenses. The reconstruction is directed toward the formulation of a specialized procedural system tailored to the distinctive nature of cybercrimes, the establishment of diversion mechanisms and digital rehabilitation initiatives that encourage behavioral reform and enhance digital literacy, and the integration of educational and preventive dimensions within national cybercrime enforcement policies. The ultimate objective is to create a balanced and humanistic

legal paradigm that reconciles child protection principles, criminal accountability, and the demands of justice in the digital era, thus providing a conceptually robust and policy-relevant contribution to the ongoing reform of Indonesia's criminal justice system. The rise of cybercrime because of rapid technological advancement has introduced unprecedented challenges for the justice system, particularly in cases involving juvenile offenders. As digital natives, children actively participate in online environments but often lack adequate awareness of the legal and ethical implications of their actions, leading to behaviors that may inadvertently constitute criminal conduct in cyberspace (Hamzah, 2020; Purwaningsih & Putranto, 2023). Bakhtiar (2026), on the principle of criminal responsibility as applied to juvenile digital offenders)

When minors engage in actions that constitute cyber offenses such as hacking, data breaches, or online defamation they encounter a complex intersection of two contrasting legal paradigms: the restorative justice model embodied in Law No. 11 of 2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System (SPPA Law) and the repressive legal framework established under Law No. 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE Law). The core legal dilemma lies in reconciling these opposing approaches: on one hand, the SPPA Law promotes diversion, rehabilitation, and the protection of the child's best interests, while on the other, the ITE Law emphasizes punishment, deterrence, and strict evidentiary standards focused on digital proof. This normative tension exposes the absence of a cohesive regulatory mechanism capable of harmonizing the two frameworks (Arief, 2016). Consequently, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges often struggle to determine the appropriate procedural pathway whether cases involving minors should follow a restorative process centered on education and rehabilitation or a repressive procedure grounded in penal enforcement and digital forensics (Arief, 2018; Dela, 2026; Garcia et al., 2020). While previous studies have acknowledged these inconsistencies, no one has successfully developed a comprehensive regulatory reconstruction that bridges the gap between these paradigms.

Therefore, this study proposes the reconstruction of a legal and procedural framework for managing cybercrimes committed by minors through three interrelated dimensions: the formulation of a specialized procedural system that integrates the technical characteristics of cyber offenses with child-sensitive due process; the creation of diversion and digital rehabilitation mechanisms aimed at promoting education, behavioral reform, and technological literacy; and the integration of educational and preventive policies within the broader framework of national cybercrime enforcement (Bakhtiar et al., 2026; Hiariej, 2016). This holistic model seeks to establish a balanced intersection between restorative and repressive justice by ensuring both legal accountability and child protection in Indonesia's evolving digital legal landscape.

Through this reconstruction, the study aspires to formulate a balanced and humanistic legal paradigm that upholds accountability while simultaneously fostering technological literacy and awareness, ensuring that every legal response remains anchored in the fundamental principles of child protection. The reconciliation between restorative and repressive approaches serves as both the theoretical innovation and the policy contribution of this research to the ongoing reform of Indonesia's criminal justice system in the digital era. The increasing prevalence of cybercrimes involving minors has emerged as a pressing legal and social challenge within the contemporary digital landscape. As active participants in cyberspace, children often lack sufficient comprehension of the legal and ethical implications of their online conduct. When they engage in unlawful digital activities whether driven by curiosity, peer influence, or a lack of awareness they become entangled in a dual legal framework defined by two contrasting paradigms: the restorative justice orientation of Law No. 11 of 2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System (SPPA Law) and the repressive, evidence-based structure of Law No. 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE Law). This paradigmatic tension generates normative fragmentation and procedural ambiguity, complicating the ability of the state to determine how to appropriately impose legal accountability on minors involved in cyber offenses while, at the same time, safeguarding their inherent rights to protection, education, and rehabilitation.

The core legal problem addressed in this study centers on identifying an equilibrium between restorative and repressive justice, that is, reconstructing a coherent and integrative legal paradigm capable of harmonizing child protection principles with the demands of criminal accountability in the cyber context. The existing legal instruments, namely the Criminal Code

(*KUHP*), Law No. 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE Law), and Law No. 11 of 2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System (SPPA Law) have yet to produce a comprehensive framework that accommodates the distinctive characteristics of cyber offenses involving minors. Previous scholarly works have tended to focus on isolated dimensions of this issue, such as criminal liability, diversion, or child protection, without advancing a holistic regulatory model that effectively bridges the digital justice and juvenile justice domains (Sudijanto, 2023; Wulan, 2025). To fill this conceptual and normative gap, this research adopts an analytical approach grounded in legal theory, specifically drawing from Progressive Legal Theory, Procedural Justice Theory, and Child Protection Theory, which collectively asserts that law must be adaptive, humane, and restorative rather than strictly punitive. Guided by these theoretical foundations, the study proposes a three-dimensional reconstruction model: first, the formulation of a specialized procedural framework for handling cyber offenses committed by minors that guarantees due process while considering their psychological development and digital literacy; second, the establishment of diversion mechanisms and digital rehabilitation programs designed to promote behavioral reform and educational reintegration; and third, the integration of educational and preventive components within national cybercrime enforcement policies aimed at cultivating digital ethics, awareness, and literacy among young people.

From the standpoint of legal theory, this study presents a novel paradigm of juvenile cyber justice a conceptual framework that harmoniously integrates child protection principles, technological realities, and the fundamental purposes of criminal law. This paradigm not only addresses the doctrinal void in Indonesia's existing legislative system but also provides a scientifically grounded basis for reforming the criminal justice framework to meet the demands of justice in the digital era. The research aims to overcome these deficiencies by reconstructing a comprehensive regulatory model for managing cyber offenses committed by minors within Indonesia's legal context. The reconstructed model seeks to align restorative justice ideals and child protection obligations with the practical challenges of digital transformation, creating a legal structure that maintains accountability while emphasizing education, rehabilitation, and prevention as integral components of justice. The scientific contribution and originality of this study lie in its formulation of an interdisciplinary legal architecture that bridges juvenile justice theory and cybercrime regulation, thereby generating a progressive and future-oriented model for the reform of Indonesia's criminal justice system one that is both responsive to technological advancement and deeply rooted in the protection and development of children.

The accelerated advancement of digital technology in Indonesia has given rise to a new dimension of criminal conduct, where children once primarily viewed as victims are now increasingly identified as perpetrators of cyber offenses. This shift exposes a systemic weakness within Indonesia's criminal law framework, which still lacks a coherent and integrated regulatory structure for addressing cybercrimes committed by minors. The current legal instruments namely the Criminal Code (*KUHP*), Law No. 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE Law), and Law No. 11 of 2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System (SPPA Law) function within disconnected normative paradigms: the *KUHP* reflects a retributive orientation, the ITE Law underscores punitive measures and digital evidentiary procedures, while the SPPA Law is grounded in restorative justice and diversion principles. This lack of normative cohesion has resulted in procedural ambiguity and inconsistency, particularly in determining how to achieve an appropriate balance between criminal accountability, child protection, and the broader principles of justice in the digital era. As a result, law enforcement authorities often struggle to apply procedures that uphold due process while also ensuring rehabilitation and educational correction for minors. The core issue, therefore, lies in the absence of a comprehensive and harmonized regulatory model that effectively reconciles the repressive nature of cybercrime enforcement with the restorative essence of juvenile justice, integrating procedural, educational, and preventive dimensions into a unified system. This study aims to fill this critical void by reconstructing a balanced, integrative, and humanistic legal framework that aligns child protection principles with technological realities, thereby contributing to the modernization and coherence of Indonesia's criminal law system in the digital age (Mulyadi & 2023; Pradityo, 2016; Richardson & Milovidov, 2019).

## METHOD

This study employs a normative juridical method supported by a conceptual and comparative approach to analyze and reconstruct the regulatory framework governing cybercrimes committed by children within Indonesia's criminal law system (Ell, 2025; Mulyadi & Iryani, 2026; Soekanto, 2007). The normative juridical approach is applied to examine legal norms, statutory provisions, and doctrinal interpretations found in primary legal sources such as the Criminal Code (*KUHP*), Law No. 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE Law), and Law No. 11 of 2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System (SPPA Law). Through this method, the research identifies inconsistencies, overlaps, and normative gaps between repressive and restorative legal paradigms (Dwiprigitaningtias, 2026; Rahardjo, 2005). The conceptual approach is used to elaborate the philosophical and theoretical underpinnings of child protection, restorative justice, and digital accountability, drawing upon Progressive Legal Theory, Procedural Justice Theory, and Child Protection Theory as analytical lenses. These theoretical frameworks enable the study to reinterpret the principles of justice, responsibility, and protection in the context of cyber offenses involving minors. Meanwhile, the comparative approach is employed to analyze how other jurisdictions such as the United Kingdom, Australia, and Malaysia regulate juvenile involvement in cybercrime. The comparison provides insight into best practices and policy innovations that could be adapted to the Indonesian context. The research process involves qualitative legal analysis, synthesizing statutory interpretation with doctrinal and theoretical reasoning to propose a reconstructed model of regulation. This reconstructed model integrates three core dimensions: procedural reform, digital rehabilitation and diversion, and educational-preventive measures. Through this methodology, the study not only identifies the weaknesses of the current legal system but also formulates a scientifically grounded and applicable solution for harmonizing child protection principles, criminal accountability, and cyber justice within Indonesia's evolving legal framework (Lesmana et al., 2026; Nainggolan, 2026; Tyler, 2003).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

The results of this study show that the legal regulation of cybercrimes committed by children in Indonesia still faces fundamental problems in the form of normative disharmonization and procedural disintegration. This inconsistency is especially evident from the paradigm difference between the Criminal Code (*KUHP*) and the Information and Electronic Transactions Law (ITE Law) which tends to be repressive and oriented towards proof and punishment, and the Juvenile Criminal Justice System Law (SPPA Law) which prioritizes a restorative, protection, and rehabilitation approach to children. This difference in orientation is not only theoretical, but also has a significant impact on law enforcement practices that often experience uncertainty in determining the right procedural approach when a child is involved in cybercrime a finding corroborated by KPAL, which documented 47 cases where investigative officers applied ITE Law provisions to juvenile suspects without utilizing diversion as mandated by the SPPA Law, and by the Supreme Court Annual Report in 2022 highlighting inconsistencies in sentencing juvenile cyber offenders across regional courts.

In law enforcement practice, the authorities tend to use a technical-based approach as stipulated in the ITE Law, which emphasizes the validity of digital evidence such as metadata, electronic traces, and digital forensic analysis. (Arief, 2018; Rodliyah et al., 2020) This approach places the evidentiary aspect as the top priority, so it often ignores the subjective condition of the child as a perpetrator. Children are treated like adult perpetrators without considering aspects of psychological development, emotional maturity, and digital literacy level. As a result, the legal process that is carried out becomes less sensitive to the principles of child protection and has the potential to have a negative impact on the future development of children (Arianto & Irawan, 2026; Astuti & Purwanto, 2020; Marlina, 2012).

The findings of this study demonstrate a systematic procedural gap between the ITE Law's technical evidentiary framework and the SPPA Law's restorative justice mandate, which manifests as an absence of standardized child-sensitive procedures at every stage of the criminal process. This procedural framework should be comprehensively designed by integrating the

principles of restorative justice, child protection, and evidentiary requirements in cyber law. In its implementation, each stage of the legal process must be equipped with a multidimensional assessment mechanism, including psychological evaluation, analysis of digital literacy levels, and assessments of children’s motivations and social contexts.

**Table 1.** Summary of Normative Disharmony Findings Between ITE Law and SPPA Law in Handling Juvenile Cybercrime

Dimension	Key Finding	Applicable Legal Instrument	Normative / Procedural Gap
1. Procedural Framework	No child-sensitive cyber procedure; minors processed under general adult forensic procedure	ITE Law + SPPA Law	Absence of integrated child-sensitive digital forensic protocol
2. Evidentiary Standards	Digital evidence processed without child welfare or psychological assessment	ITE Law Art. 5; SPPA Law Art. 18	No mandate to integrate psychological evaluation with evidentiary procedure
3. Diversion Mechanism	Diversion rarely applied; <i>KPAI</i> (2022) documented 47 non-diversion cases involving juvenile cyber suspects	SPPA Law Art. 7; ITE Law	No statutory mandate for diversion in cyber-specific contexts; ambiguity on eligibility
4. Digital Rehabilitation	No statutory digital rehabilitation program prescribed for juvenile digital offenders	SPPA Law Art. 82; ITE Law	Critical gap in post-adjudication rehabilitative framework specific to digital offenses
5. Comparative Perspective	UK (Online Safety Act 2023), Australia (Criminal Code Act 1995 Div. 474), and Malaysia (Computer Crimes Act 1997 + Child Act 2001) integrate child-protective provisions in cybercrime law	Comparative Legal Framework	Indonesia lacks equivalent statutory integration of child protection within cybercrime legislation

Source: Authors’ analysis based on statutory review and comparative legal study (2026).

## Discussion

The procedural examination of child suspects must be conducted through a developmentally sensitive and pedagogically oriented approach, grounded in trauma-informed practice and restorative dialogue. The systematic engagement of interdisciplinary professionals including certified child psychologists, accredited social workers, and legally trained child advocates is indispensable to ensuring the adjudicative process does not inflict secondary psychological harm or exacerbate social vulnerabilities of the minor. In addition, communication in the examination process must be adjusted to the child's ability, using simple and easy-to-understand language. This is important so that children can understand the legal process and realize the mistakes that have been made.

In the context of proof, this study proposes a conceptual reframing of digital evidence in juvenile proceedings, rather than functioning exclusively as a technical instrument of criminal proof, digital evidence should be reconstructed as a pedagogical medium through which the causal relationship between the minor’s conduct and its consequences can be communicated in a legally coherent yet developmentally appropriate manner.

Furthermore, this study reveals that the application of the principle of restorative justice through diversion mechanisms in cybercrime cases faces quite complex challenges. The characteristics of cybercrime that are different from conventional crime are the main inhibiting factors. In many cases, victims of cybercrime cannot be directly identified, are anonymous, or even constitute a community at large. This condition makes it difficult to implement mediation which is at the core of the restorative approach.

However, these limitations do not mean that restorative approaches cannot be applied. On the contrary, innovation is needed in the development of diversion mechanisms to be more adaptive to the characteristics of cybercrime. Diversion can be developed in more flexible forms, such as virtual mediation, digital reflection forums, and technology-based social responsibility programs. In this case, the main focus of diversion is no longer solely on reconciliation with the victim, but also on the formation of awareness, responsibility, and changes in the child's behavior.

Within this framework, diversion must be understood as an educational process that aims to shape the character and moral awareness of children. Children need to be given an understanding of the impact of their actions, both on the victim and on society at large. In addition, children also need to be involved in constructive activities as a form of social responsibility. Thus, diversion not only serves as an alternative to resolving cases, but also as an effective means of rehabilitation.

This research also emphasizes the importance of developing digital rehabilitation programs as an integral part of the juvenile criminal justice system. This program is designed to improve digital literacy, legal awareness, and children's ability to use technology responsibly. Forms of rehabilitation can be in the form of digital ethics training, cybersecurity education, and productive technology-based activities.

Furthermore, digital rehabilitation focuses not only on the aspect of knowledge, but also on the formation of attitudes and behaviors. Therefore, rehabilitation programs must be comprehensively designed by involving psychological, social, and educational approaches. Children need to be given assistance to develop empathy, self-control, and the ability to make responsible decisions in the use of technology.

The success of digital rehabilitation programs is highly dependent on collaboration between various parties. The government, educational institutions, community organizations, and professionals in the field of technology and psychology must work together in designing and implementing rehabilitation programs. This synergy is important to ensure that the programs run are not only formal, but are really able to have a positive impact on changes in children's behavior.

In addition, this study found that there are obstacles in the ability of law enforcement officials to integrate technical aspects into the restorative process. Many officials are still oriented towards a legal-formal approach so that they experience difficulties in translating digital evidence into language that is easy to understand in the diversion process. This leads to communication gaps that can hinder the effectiveness of the restorative process.

Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the capacity of the apparatus through special training that not only covers technical aspects, but also communication aspects and psychological approaches to children. Law enforcement officials must be able to play a role not only as law enforcers, but also as facilitators in the learning and rehabilitation process of children.

On the other hand, this study emphasizes that the handling of cybercrime by children cannot rely only on a repressive approach. Integration between educational and preventive approaches is needed in law enforcement policies. Education about digital ethics, cybersecurity, and the responsibility of using technology must be provided systematically from an early age.

This preventive approach can be carried out through the integration of educational curriculum, digital literacy campaigns, and community involvement in supervising children's use of technology. Thus, prevention efforts are not only the responsibility of law enforcement officials, but also the shared responsibility of all elements of society.

The integration of educational and preventive approaches also reflects a paradigm shift in the legal system, from being repressive to more humanistic and progressive. The law no longer only functions as a tool of enforcement, but also as a means of shaping character and social consciousness. In this context, children are not seen solely as perpetrators, but as individuals who are in the process of development and need guidance.

As part of the legal reform effort, this study recommends the harmonization of regulations between the ITE Law and the SPPA Law. This harmonization aims to create harmony between repressive and restorative approaches, so that there is no more conflict of norms in law enforcement practices. Specifically, this study recommends: (1) insertion of a new provision within Chapter II of the SPPA Law establishing a “Digital Rehabilitation Program” as a mandatory diversion option for non-violent cyber offenses involving minors; and (2) amendment of Article 14 of the ITE Law (as last amended by Law No. 1 of 2024) to explicitly exempt juvenile offenders who complete court-approved digital rehabilitation programs from the punitive sentencing provisions of the ITE Law.

With the harmonization of regulations, it is hoped that a more consistent, integrated, and responsive legal system will be created to technological developments. In addition, the legal system can also better guarantee the protection of children, without neglecting the aspect of legal accountability. Thus, justice is not only achieved formally, but also substantively and humanely.

Overall, the results of this study show that the handling of cybercrime by children requires a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach. This approach must be able to integrate aspects of law, technology, psychology, and education in one complete framework. Thus, the legal system is not only able to uphold justice, but also plays a role in shaping a generation that has high digital awareness and responsibility.

Legal system reform in this field is a necessity that cannot be postponed, considering the rapid development of technology and the increasing involvement of children in the digital space. Without comprehensive reforms, the legal system will continue to lag behind and unable to respond to the challenges that arise in the digital era. Therefore, a joint commitment from all stakeholders is needed to realize a more adaptive, humane, and fair juvenile criminal justice system.

## CONCLUSION

This study finds that Indonesia’s existing legal framework for juvenile cybercrime is characterized by fundamental normative disharmony between the ITE Law’s repressive evidentiary orientation and the SPPA Law’s restorative child-protective mandate. Empirical evidence—including *KPAI*’s documentation of 47 cases of non-compliance with diversion requirements and the Supreme Court’s report of inconsistent sentencing in juvenile cyber cases—confirms that this legislative fragmentation produces tangible procedural failures. The comparative analysis further reveals that Indonesia lags behind the United Kingdom, Australia, and Malaysia in integrating child-sensitive provisions within its cybercrime legislation. Three reforms are urgently required: (1) a specialized procedural framework integrating child-sensitive digital forensic standards that guarantees due process, psychological assessment, and restorative orientation at every stage—consistent with the UNCRC best interest of the child principle; (2) a contextually adaptive diversion mechanism incorporating digital rehabilitation programs, delivered collaboratively by law enforcement, *Kominfo*, NGOs, and psychologists, as a statutory alternative to punitive measures for non-violent cyber offenses involving minors; and (3) statutory harmonization between the ITE Law and the SPPA Law, specifically through insertion of Digital Rehabilitation Program provisions in Chapter II of the SPPA Law and amendment of Article 14 of the ITE Law to exempt eligible juvenile offenders from punitive sentencing upon completion of court-approved rehabilitation programs. The scholarly contribution of this study lies in its formulation of an interdisciplinary “juvenile cyber justice” framework that bridges progressive legal theory, procedural justice doctrine, and child protection principles—advancing academic discourse on the intersection of digital governance and juvenile law reform. This study acknowledges its primary limitation: as a normative juridical analysis, it does not incorporate primary empirical field data, which represents an important avenue for future mixed-methods research. Future studies should empirically test the proposed model through practitioner surveys, judicial decision analysis, and comparative implementation studies across ASEAN jurisdictions. Ultimately, the law in the digital era must function not merely as an instrument of sanction, but as an architecture of protection, education, and transformation—ensuring that every child who enters the justice system emerges with greater awareness, responsibility, and the capacity to navigate the digital world with integrity.

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### AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

Yuni Priskila Ginting contributed to the conceptualization, legal analysis, and overall manuscript development. Franciscus Xaverius Wartoyo contributed to the methodology, statutory review, and comparative legal analysis. Anissa Furqanina contributed to the literature review, international legal comparison, manuscript drafting, and editing. All authors reviewed, revised, and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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