



Online Dating and Islamic Legal Norms in Aceh: Reassessing Aceh Qanun No. 6 of 2014 on Jinayat Law in the Digital Age

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Abstract

The rapid advancement of information technology and the increasing accessibility of the internet have given rise to online dating as a new form of premarital interaction. This phenomenon presents legal challenges in Aceh because it is not explicitly regulated under Aceh Qanun Number 6 of 2014 on Jinayat Law, despite the fact that its characteristics may affect the boundaries of interaction between men and women and the values underpinning family formation in Islam. This study aims to analyze the practice of online dating from the perspective of Islamic law based on Aceh Qanun Number 6 of 2014 and to examine its implications for premarital relationships and social norms in Acehnese society. This research employs a normative juridical method using statutory and conceptual approaches through the analysis of legal provisions, scholarly literature, and relevant sources of Islamic law. The findings reveal that although online dating is not explicitly regulated under Aceh Qanun Number 6 of 2014, it can be assessed based on Islamic legal principles that prohibit *khalwat* (close seclusion between unrelated men and women), *ikhtilāṭ* (unrestricted mixing of unrelated men and women), and other conduct leading to violations of Islamic norms. The legality of online interactions is determined not by the digital medium itself, but by the purpose, nature of communication, and their potential impact on personal dignity, premarital relationships, and preparation for marriage in accordance with Islamic values. This study highlights the need to strengthen legal interpretation and develop regulations that are more responsive to technological advancements in order to provide legal certainty while preserving Islamic principles and Aceh's local wisdom.

Keywords: Islamic Law, Online Dating, Premarital Relationships, Qanun Jinayat.

Abstract

Perkembangan teknologi informasi dan meningkatnya penggunaan internet telah melahirkan bentuk baru interaksi pranikah melalui platform kencan online. Fenomena ini menimbulkan tantangan hukum di Aceh karena belum diatur secara eksplisit dalam Qanun Aceh Nomor 6 Tahun 2014 tentang Hukum Jinayat, padahal karakteristik interaksinya



berpotensi memengaruhi batasan pergaulan antara laki-laki dan perempuan serta nilai-nilai yang menjadi dasar pembentukan keluarga dalam Islam. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis praktik kencan online berdasarkan perspektif hukum Islam melalui Qanun Aceh Nomor 6 Tahun 2014 serta mengkaji implikasinya terhadap hubungan pranikah dan norma sosial di Aceh. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode yuridis normatif dengan pendekatan peraturan perundang-undangan dan konseptual melalui analisis terhadap ketentuan hukum, literatur ilmiah, serta sumber-sumber hukum Islam yang relevan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa meskipun kencan online tidak diatur secara eksplisit dalam Qanun Aceh Nomor 6 Tahun 2014, praktik tersebut dapat dinilai berdasarkan prinsip-prinsip syariat yang melarang khalwat, ikhtilath, dan perilaku yang mengarah pada pelanggaran norma agama. Legalitas interaksi digital tidak ditentukan oleh media yang digunakan, melainkan oleh tujuan, bentuk komunikasi, dan potensi dampaknya terhadap kehormatan, hubungan pranikah, serta persiapan menuju perkawinan yang sesuai dengan nilai-nilai Islam. Penelitian ini menegaskan perlunya penguatan interpretasi hukum dan penyusunan regulasi yang lebih adaptif terhadap perkembangan teknologi digital guna memberikan kepastian hukum tanpa mengabaikan prinsip-prinsip syariat Islam dan kearifan lokal di Aceh.

Kata Kunci: Hukum Islam, Kencan Online, Hubungan Pranikah, Qanun Jinayat.

Introduction

The phenomenon of online dating has expanded rapidly in recent years, driven by advances in information technology and the widespread availability of internet access. In Indonesia, particularly in Aceh, this development has attracted significant legal and public attention because it may conflict with the religious and social norms upheld within the province.¹ Aceh is the only province in Indonesia authorized to implement Islamic law through Aceh Qanun No. 6 of 2014 on Jinayat Law, which prescribes sanctions for various violations of Islamic criminal law, including *zina* (unlawful sexual intercourse).² In this context, online dating has become a critical legal issue because it facilitates interactions between unrelated men and women that may lead to conduct prohibited under Islamic law. Such conduct may ultimately result in *zina*, an offense punishable by caning under the Qanun.³ This development presents new challenges for the implementation of Islamic law, requiring a reassessment of how digital technology reshapes social interactions and affects the application of existing legal norms. Online dating applications such as Tinder, Tantan, and Litmatch provide users with convenient opportunities to communicate beyond traditional social supervision. The anonymity and accessibility offered by these platforms

¹ L. Walidain, M. P., & Astuti, "Implementasi Qanun Jinayat Dalam Penegakan Hukum Pidana Di Aceh," *Indonesian Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology (IJCLC)*, 2(3) (2021): 184–93.

² Nur Mala Sari et al., "Legal Pluralism and the Enforcement of Zina Offences: Analysis of Customary and Jinayat Law in the Alas Community, Aceh," *Justicia Islamica* 23, no. 2 (May 2026): 449–76, <https://doi.org/10.21154/justicia.v23i2.12655>.

³ Andi Muhammad Firdaus Tamin et al., "A Comparative Study of the Concept of Adultery Offenders in At-Tasyri' Al-Jina'i Al-Islami and the Aceh Qanun Number 6 of 2014 on Jinayat Law," *Al-Ishlah: Jurnal Ilmiah Hukum* 29, no. 1 (February 2026): 42–57, <https://doi.org/10.56087/452j1j81>.