

# Reconstruction of the Integration of the Powers of the Religious Courts and the Population Registry Office in Updating Civil Status Following Divorce

Rohmad Bahrudin<sup>1</sup>, Fadil<sup>2</sup>, Isroqunnajah<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup>Ahwal Syakhshiyah Islamic family law, Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang, Malang, Indonesia  
Email: 250201320005@student.uin-malang.ac.id<sup>1</sup>, fadilsj@syariah.uin-malang.ac.id<sup>2</sup>, isroqunnajah@uin-malang.ac.id<sup>3</sup>

A legally binding marriage decree should directly change the legal status of the parties, including their marital status in population administration. However, such changes still depend on public reporting to the Population and Civil Registration Office, leading to fragmentation of authority between the judicial system and population administration. This study aims to analyze the authority gap between the Religious Court and the Population and Civil Registration Office in updating post-divorce population status and to reconstruct a digital government-based authority integration model. The study uses a normative-empirical legal method (socio-legal research) with guidelines from regulations, conceptualizations, and cases. Data were obtained through document analysis studies, laws and regulations, and semi-structured interviews at the Malang Regency Religious Court and the Malang Regency Population and Civil Registration Office, then analyzed qualitatively using deductive-critical reasoning. The results of the study indicate the absence of a data interoperability mechanism that connects legally binding divorce settlements with the Population Administration Information System (SIAK), resulting in dualism of legal status between judicial and administrative status. The implementation of e-Court and Electronic Divorce Certificates has only resulted in the digitization of documents and internal judicial administrative processes without realizing cross-sector integration. The novelty of this research is the Trigger-Based Administration Integration Model, which positions a legally binding divorce decree as an automatic trigger for updating residency status through the interoperability of Application Programming Interface (API)-based information systems between the Supreme Court and the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration, thereby strengthening legal certainty, population data accuracy, and the effectiveness of national digital governance.

**Keywords:** Integration Of Authority; Divorce; Population Administration; Data Interoperability; Digital Government.

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## Corresponding Author:

Rohmad Bahrudin

Ahwal Syakhshiyah Islamic family law, Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang

St Gajayana No. 50, Ketawanggede Village, Lowokwaru District, Malang City, East Java 65144

250201320005@student.uin-malang.ac.id

## 1. Introduction

In a state governed by the rule of law, court judgments serve as instruments that provide legal certainty in respect of every legal relationship between citizens. In divorce cases, a Religious Court judgement that has attained final and binding force (*inkracht van gewijsde*) not only terminates the marital relationship between husband and wife, but also gives rise to various legal consequences in the fields of civil law and public administration. One of the most fundamental legal consequences is the change in a person's marital status within the civil registration system. This change in status is not merely an update of administrative data, but rather a form of state recognition of the legal situation established by the judiciary. Therefore, the proper administration of the population register is an integral part of the protection of citizens' rights and the realisation of the principle of legal certainty in the administration of government (Zainudin, 2025; Kautsar & Mujahidin, 2025).

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Law No. 24 of 2013 amending Law No. 23 of 2006 on Population Administration requires every resident who has divorced to report this significant event to the relevant authority no later than sixty days after the court's decision has become final and binding. This provision is accompanied by the obligation to issue new population documents so that the status on the Identity Card (KTP) and Family Card (KK) reflects the actual legal situation. However, this regulation still places the onus on members of the public to apply for changes to their population data themselves. In other words, a court judgement does not automatically change a person's population status. This situation highlights a separation of powers between the judicial institutions that determine the legal status of a divorce and the civil registration authorities responsible for amending civil registration data. Consequently, the legal certainty provided by the court's decision is not directly followed by administrative certainty on the part of the state.

This phenomenon indicates the persistence of a dual legal status that has not yet been fully integrated into the administrative system. On the one hand, a person has been declared divorced by a court judgement that has the force of *res judicata* and has obtained a Divorce Certificate as authentic evidence; yet, on the other hand, their marital status in the population administration database is still recorded as 'married'. This dualism not only creates a discrepancy between legal facts and state administrative data, but also has the potential to give rise to various legal issues regarding the registration of subsequent marriages, the division of joint property, inheritance, public services based on the Population Identification Number (NIK), and the formulation of public policy that uses population data as a basis for decision-making. This situation demonstrates that the objective of the Population Administration Act to establish a single, accurate set of population data has not yet been fully achieved.

This issue is particularly evident at the Malang Regency Religious Court, which is one of the religious court units handling a significant volume of divorce cases. According to official data from the Malang Regency Religious Court, between 2020 and May 2026, a total of 55,539 divorce cases were adjudicated, comprising 9,292 cases in 2020, 9,325 cases in 2021, 9,571 cases in 2022, 8,648 cases in 2023, 7,860 cases in 2024, 8,495 cases in 2025, and 2,348 cases up to May 2026. The large number of these judgements should be accompanied by a relatively similar number of changes in civil status, as every divorce judgement constitutes the legal basis for a change in marital status, as stipulated in Article 40 of Law No. 23 of 2006 in conjunction with Law No. 24 of 2013. However, empirical evidence shows that the number of people updating their civil registration status remains far below the number of final and binding divorce rulings, despite the fact that the Malang Regency Religious Court and the Malang Regency Population and Civil Registration Office have established cooperation through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and provided a Population and Civil Registration service counter at the One-Stop Integrated Service Centre (PTSP). This fact indicates that service innovations have not yet been able to bridge the gap between the resolution of cases in court and the updating of population data.

The digital transformation undertaken by the Supreme Court through the implementation of the Electronic Divorce Certificate (E-AC) since July 2025 is essentially a progressive step towards the modernisation of the judicial administration. Pursuant to Decision No. 932/DJA/SK.TI1.3.3/VI/2025 of the Director-General of the Religious Courts Agency, the issuance of copies of judgements and divorce certificates is carried out electronically as part of the digitisation of judicial services. However, empirical data from the Malang Regency Religious Court shows that from July 2025 to May 2026, 5,254 Electronic Divorce Certificates were issued, whilst the number of applications for updates to civil registration data via the Dukcapil PTSP counter ranged from just 32 to 92 applications per month. This situation indicates that the digitisation of court outputs has not yet led to the integration of public services. Digitisation has merely converted documents into electronic form, but has not yet altered the mechanisms for data exchange between agencies; consequently, changes to civil status still depend on active action by the public.

This problem is not, in fact, caused solely by a lack of public awareness, but rather by the fragmentation of authority across agencies. The Religious Courts do not have the authority to amend population data because access to National Identity Number data is restricted by regulations issued by the Ministry of the Interior. Conversely, the Population and Civil Registration Office does not receive electronic notifications that can be used directly as a basis for updating population data. Consequently, court rulings that have attained the force of law remain merely legal documents without being automatically followed by administrative changes. Yet the development of the concepts of digital government, data interoperability and 'whole of government' requires that a single legal event be recorded just once and be utilised by all relevant government agencies.

A number of previous studies have shown that research on divorce in Indonesia has largely focused on aspects of Islamic family law, the role of Sharia judges, and the legal consequences of divorce (Choiriyah et al., 2026; Afif et al., 2026; Kartini, 2026). Other studies have examined the effectiveness of implementing E-Court and the digitisation of court administration (Nasri et al., 2023; Arifin et al., 2024; Hidayati & Lubis, 2024; Ka'af et al., 2025), while Choiriyah et al. (2026) discuss the authority to issue electronic divorce certificates from the perspective of religious court procedure reform. Despite these various studies, there has been no research linking the authority to issue Electronic Divorce Certificates with the integration of civil registration following divorce. Previous research has also failed to examine how the fragmentation of authority between the Supreme Court and the Ministry of the Interior results in court rulings not automatically leading to changes in civil registration status. Consequently, there is a gap in the literature regarding the restructuring of authority that could integrate judicial functions with civil registration administration within a single public service system.

Building on the issues and gaps that have been identified, this study offers an innovative model for the reconstruction of authority regarding the issuance of divorce certificates following a divorce, based on the integration of population administration. This model treats a final and binding divorce judgement as a trigger event for the automatic change of population status through the interoperability of information systems between the Supreme Court and the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration. This model differs from previous research in that it not only examines the normative authority for the issuance of divorce certificates and the digitisation of judicial services, but also reconstructs the relationship of authority between agencies so that every divorce judgement directly results in a change to administrative population status, whilst ensuring the protection of personal data in accordance with Law No. 27 of 2022.

The urgency of this research stems from the need to ensure the effectiveness of court rulings and to strengthen legal certainty within an integrated state administrative system, the quality of national population data, and the alignment of powers between the Supreme Court and the Ministry of the Interior. Without a restructuring of these powers, the digital transformation already undertaken through E-Court and Electronic Divorce Certificates will result merely in the digitisation of documents, rather than the digitisation of public services. Therefore, a restructuring of the authority to issue divorce certificates, based on the integration of population administration, is required as the foundation for establishing an administrative system capable of ensuring that any change in legal status resulting from divorce is automatically reflected in the national population database, so that the objectives of achieving orderly population data and legal certainty can be optimally realised.

## 2. Method

This study is a normative-empirical legal study (socio-legal research). The socio-legal research approach combines a normative legal study, which focuses on legal norms ('law in books'), with an empirical study of

the implementation of the law in the practice of state administration ('law in action') (Noor, 2023). This approach is used to explain the discrepancy between the normative design of the Religious Court's authority in issuing divorce certificates and the practice of updating civil registration status by the Population and Civil Registration Office (Dukcapil) following a divorce, which indicates a disconnect between judicial decisions and administrative implementation.

Epistemologically, this study views the law not merely as an autonomous system of norms, but as a social system that interacts with bureaucratic structures and state administrative technology. Consequently, the analysis does not merely focus on the normative interpretation of legislation, but also examines the effectiveness of the implementation of these norms in institutional practice.

The research approaches employed include the statutory approach, the conceptual approach and the case approach. The statutory approach was used to analyse the normative framework governing civil registration, marriage, divorce, and the institutional powers of the Religious Courts and the Civil Registration and Population Administration Agency (Dukcapil), in particular Law No. 23 of 2006 as amended by Law No. 24 of 2013, Law No. 1 of 1974 as amended by Law No. 16 of 2019, and Presidential Regulation No. 96 of 2018.

A conceptual approach was used to construct and test the concepts of authority reconstruction, civil registration integration, information system interoperability, and digital governance as analytical tools for examining the relationship between the judicial system and the civil registration system. Meanwhile, a case-study approach was used to empirically analyse policy implementation at the Malang Regency Religious Court, specifically regarding the issuance of electronic divorce certificates and the mechanism for updating population data following a divorce judgement that has become final and binding.

The research data consists of legal data and empirical data. Legal data comprises primary, secondary and tertiary legal sources. Primary legal sources include relevant legislation, whilst secondary legal sources include academic literature, legal journals, and the doctrines of public administration law and Islamic family law. Empirical data was obtained from the Malang Regency Religious Court and the Malang Regency Population and Civil Registration Office, covering the number of divorce cases, the number of Electronic Divorce Certificates issued, and the number of population data updates following divorce.

Data collection techniques involved documentary research and semi-structured interviews with officials from the Religious Court and the Population and Civil Registration Office to gain an in-depth understanding of the patterns of inter-agency data integration. The interviews were used not as primary data, but to support the interpretation of documentary and regulatory data.

Data analysis was carried out using a descriptive-analytical qualitative method, employing a deductive-critical legal reasoning framework. The analysis process began with the interpretation of legal norms, followed by an examination of the alignment between these norms and empirical practice, and concluded with the identification of legal fragmentation, which forms the basis for the argument that a reconstruction of the integrated system between the Supreme Court and the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration is necessary

### **3. Results and Discussion**

#### **The Gap in Authority between Court Decisions and Population Administration**

Analysis of normative and empirical data shows that the authority relationship between the Religious Courts and the Population and Civil Registration Office has not yet been established in an integrated manner. Although both institutions have interrelated authority in resolving the legal consequences of

divorce, their implementation remains separate. This situation creates a structural gap that impacts the effectiveness of the implementation of court decisions within the population administration system. The research findings reveal a systemic and recurring structural disparity between the authority of the Religious Courts as a judicial institution and the Population and Civil Registration Office (Dukcapil) as the body responsible for administering population records. This gap is not merely administrative in nature, but has created a disconnect within the country's legal system, whereby court rulings do not automatically result in changes to population data.

Normatively, a Religious Court ruling that has attained the force of *res judicata* (*inkracht van gewijsde*) should have direct legal effect on a person's legal status, including their marital status within the state's administrative system (Choiriyah et al., 2026). However, research findings indicate that this legal effect does not operate directly within the Civil Registration and Population Administration system, as there is no automatic mechanism linking court rulings to the updating of population data. In practice, changes to marital status still depend on active action by residents through the reporting mechanism as stipulated in Article 40 of Law No. 23 of 2006 in conjunction with Law No. 24 of 2013. This situation creates a pattern of 'state-dependent compliance', whereby the effectiveness of legal rulings depends on individual awareness rather than on the state administrative system itself.

The empirical implications are clear: there is a time lag and even a discrepancy in the timeliness of data between a legal status that has been judicially validated and the administrative status recorded in the population database. In other words, the system does not function as a single entity, but rather as two subsystems that are not interconnected. This situation gives rise to a structural rather than incidental discontinuity of legal effect. Court rulings do not cease to have effect because they are invalid, but because they lack an automatic pathway into the state's administrative system.

From the perspective of the Rule of Law (*Rechtsstaat*), this condition indicates a lack of administrative compliance with judicial rulings (lack of administrative enforceability). The ideal rule of law requires a direct link between judicial determination and administrative execution. However, these findings show that this relationship remains fragmented. As a result, the principle of the rule of law is not fully realized in its implementation, as court decisions are not yet part of the integrated governance system. Thus, the problem that arises is not simply a technical delay in data updates, but rather a failure in the design of the state governance system to integrate judicial and administrative authority within a single national legal data cycle.

### **The Persistence of Dualism of Legal Status in Population Administration.**

This study has identified a systemic and recurring phenomenon: the persistence of dual legal status within the civil registration system. From a normative and legal perspective, individuals who have obtained a final and binding divorce decree, together with a valid divorce certificate, are legally considered to have 'divorced' status. However, in civil registration practice, this status is still frequently recorded as 'married' in the Dukcapil database. This finding indicates that the problem extends beyond mere delays in data updates; it reflects a structural disconnect between the judicial legal system and the state's administrative information system. In other words, there is a decoupling between the final legal status established in court and the representation of that status within the civil registration system. This situation represents an institutional form of legal-informational mismatch that is, a discrepancy occurring not only at the data level but also in the system design, which does not allow for automatic synchronisation between court rulings and the civil registration database.

The implications are not merely administrative, but also touch on fundamental aspects of the legal system and state governance, including:

1. distortion of citizens' legal identities in NIK-based public services,

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2. increased risk of legal conflicts in remarriages due to administratively invalid status,
3. emergence of legal uncertainty in the division of joint assets and inheritance,
4. and decreased reliability of population data as the primary basis for formulating public policy

From an empirical perspective, Ramadhan et al. (2025) asserted that the mismatch between social reality and administrative data can result in systemic distortions in public policy. However, in the context of this research, the findings indicate that the problem is no longer simply a "data gap," but has reached the level of failure to integrate the state's legal information system. Consequently, this dual status indicates that the main problem lies not in public behaviour or administrative delays, but in the absence of a 'single source of truth' architecture within the national civil registration system. The state does not yet have a mechanism to ensure that a single legal event (a divorce decree) automatically results in a uniform change of status across the entire government system. Consequently, this dual status can be interpreted as a form of institutional failure in the integration of the state's legal data, which ultimately undermines the principle of legal certainty regarding citizens' identities within a modern administrative system.

### **Ineffectiveness of Integration of Judicial Institutions and Civil Registration**

Empirical research data indicates a significant imbalance between the output of court rulings and the output of population data updates. During the period from 2020 to May 2026, the Malang Regency Religious Court ruled on 55,539 divorce cases. However, the number of recorded updates to civil status does not reflect a proportion commensurate with the volume of these rulings.

This imbalance indicates that there is an implementation disparity between the judicial system and the population administration system, whereby judicial rulings do not automatically translate into changes to administrative data within the Dukcapil system. In other words, there is a structural implementation gap between legal rulings and their administrative execution.

Although various institutional integration efforts have been undertaken such as inter-agency Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), the provision of Dukcapil services at One-Stop Service Centres (PTSPs), and the implementation of the Electronic Divorce Certificate (E-AC) since 2025 the research findings indicate that none of these measures have yet resulted in substantive system integration. The resulting effects remain limited to improved access to services, rather than the acceleration or automation of changes to population data. The implication is that the form of integration that occurs is still at the level of institutional cooperation, namely cooperation between agencies that is administrative and service-based, not at the level of system integration that is based on automatic data exchange and real-time governance.

From a digital governance perspective, this situation indicates that the digital transformation undertaken by the Supreme Court and the Civil Registration Agency (Dukcapil) remains sectoral and partial. As noted by Nasri et al. (2023), Hidayati and Lubis (2024), and Arifin et al. (2024), the implementation of e-Court and the digitization of the judiciary have indeed increased the internal efficiency of the judicial process, but have not yet reached a more crucial aspect, namely data interoperability across state institutions.

Thus, the transformation is still at the digitization stage, namely the digitization of documents and internal administrative processes, and has not yet progressed to the digital transformation that requires comprehensive integration of information systems between agencies. The absence of this integration mechanism creates an administrative bottleneck at the judicial-administrative transition point, namely the phase after a decision becomes final but before a change in residency status. This bottleneck indicates that the legal system and the state administration system still operate in separate silos, lacking automatic synchronization mechanisms. Consequently, the effectiveness of court decisions as instruments for

changing a citizen's legal status is suboptimal, as they still rely on subsequent administrative processes that are not integrated into a single national data system

### **Theoretical Analysis: Rule of Law and Legal Certainty**

Research findings indicate that the dual authority for issuing divorce certificates following the enactment of Law Number 24 of 2013 concerning Population Administration has created a lack of synchronization between the judicial system and the population administration system. A divorce decree, which has obtained permanent legal force (*inkracht van gewijsde*), does not automatically change a person's residency status in the national database. Consequently, two legal statuses operate concurrently: one based on the court decision and one based on the population data. This situation indicates that the national legal system has not yet been able to integrate the judicial function with the administrative function of government.

From the perspective of the Rule of Law Theory (*Rechtsstaat*), the state is not only obliged to establish legal norms and conduct legitimate judicial processes but also to ensure that every court decision can be effectively implemented throughout the government system. The essence of a rule of law state does not stop at the legality of decisions but also encompasses the effectiveness of their implementation in state administrative practice. When a divorce decree does not automatically change residency status, the state has failed to ensure continuity between its adjudicative and administrative functions.

This situation demonstrates the fragmentation of state authority between judicial institutions and civil administration agencies. Religious courts have resolved family law disputes through final and binding decisions, but the implementation of these decisions still relies on administrative actions that must be carried out independently by the parties. Thus, the effectiveness of court decisions depends on the administrative compliance of citizens, rather than on integrated state mechanisms. This situation contradicts the principle of effective judicial protection, which requires that every court decision receive full protection and implementation by the state.

Furthermore, this situation indicates an implementation gap in the administration of the rule of law. Normatively, the authority of the judiciary and the Population and Civil Registration Office has been stipulated in various laws and regulations. However, empirically, the two systems still operate independently without an automatic data exchange mechanism. As a result, the state shifts the burden of implementing decisions to citizens through the obligation to report divorces to obtain changes in residency status. However, in the good governance paradigm, state administrators should develop an administrative system capable of automatically following up on every court decision without burdening the public

From the perspective of Legal Certainty Theory, legal certainty is determined not only by the existence of legal norms governing divorce and population administration, but also by the consistent implementation of these norms in practice. Legal certainty encompasses the elements of predictability, consistency, enforceability, and legal protection. Research findings demonstrate that these four elements have not been fully met. While a divorce decree provides certainty regarding the dissolution of a marriage, it does not provide certainty regarding a person's legal status within the state administration because additional administrative procedures are required.

This situation gives rise to administrative legal uncertainty, a situation where a person has obtained legal certainty through a court decision but has not yet received legal recognition within the population administration system. As a result, a single individual can hold two different legal statuses simultaneously. From the perspective of modern legal theory, this dual status constitutes a form of systemic inconsistency in the legal system that has the potential to create uncertainty in various legal relationships, such as

subsequent marriages, division of joint property, inheritance, processing of population documents, social security rights, public services, and the validity of national population data

Research findings also show that the obligation to report divorces as stipulated in the Population Administration Law actually shifts the state's responsibility to citizens. The state positions the public as the primary actor responsible for ensuring data synchronization between agencies, even though the function of administrative integration is part of the government's responsibility as the organizer of public administration. Thus, the current regulatory design does not fully reflect the principles of simple, effective public services oriented toward protecting citizens' rights. This view is reinforced by Choiriyah et al. (2026), who showed that post-divorce women still face various administrative barriers in obtaining recognition of their legal status. These barriers are not solely caused by social and economic factors, but also by weak institutional integration between the judiciary and state administration. This finding aligns with the results of this study, which indicates that the primary problem no longer lies in the process of obtaining a divorce decree, but rather in the mechanism for implementing the decree within the population administration system

Based on this analysis, it can be emphasized that the issue of dualism in the issuance of divorce certificates is not merely a technical administrative issue, but rather a constitutional issue concerning the effectiveness of the rule of law, the protection of citizens' rights, legal certainty, and good governance. If court decisions have not been automatically integrated with the Population Administration Information System (SIAK), the state has not fully fulfilled its constitutional obligation to provide legal certainty and effective legal protection to citizens. Therefore, the reconstruction of the authority to issue divorce certificates through digital integration between the Religious Courts, the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, and the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration is an urgent need. This integration will eliminate administrative dualism, strengthen the effectiveness of court decisions, guarantee the validity of national population data, and realize the principle of a rule of law that is not only legal in normative terms but also effective in its implementation

#### **Implications of Digitalization: E-Court and Electronic Divorce Certificates from the Perspective of Integration of State Administrative Authority.**

Research findings indicate that the implementation of E-Court and electronic divorce certificates is one of the key achievements of judicial reform in Indonesia in delivering faster, simpler, more transparent and more accountable judicial services. This digitalisation has successfully transformed various stages of case administration, ranging from case registration, payment of court fees, summoning of parties, electronic hearings, to the electronic issuance of judgement documents and divorce certificates. These changes have tangibly improved the efficiency of the judiciary's internal services and reduced the transaction costs previously borne by those seeking justice.

However, research findings indicate that the success of this digitalisation has not been accompanied by fundamental changes to the institutional relationship between the judiciary and civil registration authorities. The digitalisation carried out remains an internal digital transformation, i.e. it merely transforms administrative processes within the Supreme Court without establishing data integration with other government administrative systems. In other words, digital reform has stopped at the digitisation of procedures and has not yet developed into digital governance

Empirical findings show that although Electronic Divorce Certificates are issued automatically once a court ruling has become final and binding, changes to marital status within the Population Administration Information System (SIAK) still require further administrative action in the form of reporting by the parties to the Population and Civil Registration Office. Thus, digitisation does not eliminate bureaucratic stages,

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but merely transforms the form of documents from conventional to electronic. The substance of administrative authority continues to operate separately, meaning that the administrative dualism at the root of this research remains unchanged.

This situation indicates that the digitisation of the judiciary in Indonesia still adopts the 'technology as administrative automation' paradigm, whereby technology is positioned as a tool to expedite internal bureaucratic processes without restructuring the relationships of authority between agencies. Yet, within the paradigms of Digital Government and the Whole-of-Government Approach, information technology should be used to build interoperability across government systems so that data exchange can take place automatically, in real time, securely, and in an integrated manner. In the absence of such interoperability mechanisms, each institution continues to maintain its own database, resulting in information redundancy, duplication of administrative work, and inconsistencies in the legal status of citizens

From the perspective of modern public administration theory, this phenomenon indicates the existence of a 'digital bureaucracy without institutional integration'. The state has indeed succeeded in digitising public services at the organisational level but has not yet succeeded in establishing institutional integration at the level of the government system. Consequently, digital transformation has merely improved the operational efficiency of individual agencies, without resulting in greater overall effectiveness in the administration of government.

The findings of this research also show that the main issue does not lie in the low use of information technology, but rather in regulatory design that has not provided a legal basis for the automatic exchange of data between the Supreme Court and the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration. The absence of a normative obligation regarding the automatic legal exchange of data means that any change in legal status resulting from a court ruling still depends on manual reporting by the public. Consequently, the state continues to place the responsibility for data synchronisation on citizens, even though data integration is the duty of government bodies in delivering effective public services

From an Electronic Government (E-Government) perspective, the success of digital transformation is not measured by the number of documents converted to electronic form, but by the government system's ability to establish a single source of truth that is, a single set of data shared by all government agencies. Research findings indicate that the Electronic Divorce Certificate has not yet functioned as a single legal event that automatically updates all civil registration statuses. Consequently, a single legal divorce still results in two distinct administrative processes: the judicial process at the Religious Court and the administrative process at the Population and Civil Registration Office. This dualism constitutes a failure of digital interoperability within government.

Furthermore, this situation gives rise to various legal and administrative consequences. National population data loses its accuracy as it does not reflect changes in legal status in real time. Members of the public face the risk of being denied public services due to discrepancies in data between agencies, whilst the government loses the validity of the databases that form the basis for evidence-based public policy. Thus, digitalisation that is not accompanied by institutional integration creates a digital paradox: technology is becoming increasingly sophisticated, yet the effectiveness of legal services has not seen a significant improvement

This finding also critiques the orientation of judicial reform, which has focused more on internal efficiency improvements than institutional governance reform. Digital reform has not addressed the reconstruction of administrative authority, thus failing to eliminate the fragmentation of authority between the judiciary and civil service administration. Yet, the primary goal of digital government transformation is not simply to accelerate service delivery but rather to create integrated, responsive, and citizen centered governance.

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Based on these findings, this study argues that the reconstruction of the authority to issue divorce certificates cannot be achieved simply by converting documents to electronic formats. It must also be accompanied by the reconstruction of a digital legal architecture that allows every legally binding divorce decree to automatically transmit marital status change data to the Population Administration Information System. This integration must be built through an Application Programming Interface (API) mechanism that connects the information systems of the Supreme Court, Religious Courts, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, and the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration within a single national digital government ecosystem.

Thus, divorce decrees will no longer remain electronic documents but will trigger events that automatically update all population data without requiring re-reporting by the public. This analysis confirms that the digitalization of the judiciary is not yet synonymous with the digitalization of the rule of law. A digital rule of law can only be realized if technological transformation is accompanied by integration of authority, synchronization of regulations, inter-agency data interoperability, and automatic recognition of the legal consequences of each court decision. Therefore, the novelty of this research lies in the idea that the reform of divorce certificate issuance must shift from an electronic document paradigm to an integrated legal ecosystem paradigm, so that each court decision becomes a source of automatic, accurate changes to population administration data and provides legal certainty for all citizens

### **The Urgency of Reconstructing Authority in Issuing Divorce Certificates Based on Population Administration Integration.**

The research findings indicate that the primary issue in issuing divorce certificates after a divorce is no longer the existence of legal norms governing divorce or population administration. Normatively, the authority of Religious Courts to decide divorce cases is clearly stipulated in various laws and regulations, as is the authority of the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration to record changes in population status. However, this research found that both authorities still operate partially and sectorally, and are not supported by institutional integration mechanisms or information system interoperability. As a result, a single legal event creates two independent administrative mechanisms, leading to dual legal status and inconsistencies in national population data.

The research findings demonstrate that this fragmentation of authority is not merely a matter of division of duties between agencies but has developed into a governance failure in state administration. Religious Courts resolve family law disputes through final and binding decisions, while the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration can only update marital status if the community reports it independently. Thus, the state has not established an institutional mechanism capable of automatically using court decisions as the basis for administrative changes. The state shifts the responsibility for data synchronization to citizens, even though data integration is part of the government's obligations in providing public services

The results of this study indicate that the current design of authority is still oriented towards the paradigm of administrative separation, where each agency exercises its authority independently based on its respective sector. This paradigm may have been relevant in conventional administrative systems based on physical documents, but it is no longer adequate in the era of digital government, which demands data interoperability, real-time information exchange, and integrated public services. In other words, the main problem is not a lack of regulation, but rather the inability of institutional design to adapt to developments in information technology and the demands of modern governance.

The empirical analysis of this study also shows that this fragmentation of authority results in various significant legal consequences. A person's legal status based on a court decision often does not align with the administrative status recorded in the population database. This discrepancy has the potential to create

obstacles in subsequent marriages, inheritance matters, division of joint assets, social security administration, health services, banking services, and the compilation of national population statistics. Thus, administrative dualism not only impacts individuals who divorce but also impacts the quality of governance and the validity of public policies based on population data.

These findings reinforce the view of Choiriyah et al. (2026), who stated that the authority to issue divorce certificates in the Indonesian legal system remains sectoral and has not been integrated into a single state administrative system. However, this study goes further by demonstrating that the problem is not solely caused by the division of authority, but rather by the absence of a legal mechanism that automatically connects the legal consequences of court decisions with changes in population data. Thus, this study argues that the root of the problem lies in the absence of norms regarding legal interoperability, not simply the distribution of authority between agencies. From the perspective of a modern state based on the rule of law, every court decision that has obtained permanent legal effect should have executive administrative effect, meaning legal consequences that are directly implemented by all government organs without requiring additional administrative action from citizens. Court decisions should not remain mere judicial documents binding on the parties, but should serve as the basis for changes in the entire state administration related to an individual's legal status. When the state still requires re-reporting to administrative agencies, the effectiveness of court decisions depends on the actions of citizens, rather than the legal system itself. This situation contradicts the principles of an effective state based on the rule of law, the principle of public service, and the goals of national bureaucratic reform.

Furthermore, research shows that fragmentation of authority has hampered the implementation of the One Data Indonesia policy and the Single Identity Number (SIN) concept, the foundation of digital government transformation. The population database will only maintain integrity if every change in a person's legal status is automatically updated based on legitimate data sources. As long as court decisions are not a direct source of data updates, there will always be a time lag between legal reality and administrative reality. This gap causes population data to lose its real-time, accurate, up-to-date and accountable characteristics, thus potentially reducing the quality of public services and data-based policy formulation. Based on these findings, this study argues that the required solution goes beyond simplifying administrative procedures or improving inter-agency coordination. This problem demands a reconstruction of authority that shifts the paradigm of the relationship between the judiciary and population administration. This reconstruction must position a legally binding divorce decision as a legal trigger that automatically generates administrative legal consequences without requiring further reporting by the public.

The model proposed in this study is the Trigger-Based Administrative Integration Model, a model of authority integration that makes a divorce decision a trigger event in a digital government system. Through this model, once the decision has become legally binding, the Supreme Court's information system automatically sends verified data to the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration through a secure, encrypted Application Programming Interface (API) mechanism that adheres to personal data protection principles. This data then serves as the basis for changes in marital status in the Population Administration Information System (SIK), updates to Family Cards, adjustments to data on e-KTPs, and synchronization with various other public service systems without requiring additional administrative action from citizens.

This reconstruction model not only simplifies administrative procedures but also reforms the authority relationships between state organs, moving from administrative separation to integrated administrative governance. This change will yield several strategic benefits, including strengthening the effectiveness of court decisions, eliminating administrative dualism, improving the accuracy of national population data,

accelerating public services, reducing public administration costs, strengthening the implementation of the One Data Indonesia policy, and supporting the realization of a digital government based on data interoperability. Therefore, the urgency of authority reconstruction in this study is not only based on the practical need to simplify divorce administration services, but also a constitutional necessity to realize an effective rule of law, an integrated digital government, legal certainty for citizens, and accurate, up-to-date population administration governance oriented toward protecting the public's constitutional rights. Therefore, authority reconstruction through the Trigger-Based Administrative Integration Model is the main novelty of this study, offering a new paradigm in the implementation of population administration in Indonesia, transforming court decisions from mere judicial products into automatic triggers for changes in state administration within an integrated digital government ecosystem.

#### 4. Conclusion

This study shows that the main problem in post-divorce population status updates is not caused by a lack of legal norms, but rather by the fragmentation of authority between the Religious Courts and the Population and Civil Registration Office, resulting in a lack of integration of the legal consequences of court decisions with the population administration system. A divorce decision that has obtained permanent legal force (*inkracht van gewijsde*) has legally changed the legal status of the parties, but this change has not been automatically reflected in the Population Administration Information System (SIAK). As a result, there is still a dualism of legal status between judicial and administrative status, which creates legal uncertainty, reduces the quality of national population data, and hinders the effectiveness of public services based on the Population Identification Number (NIK).

Empirical findings at the Malang Regency Religious Court show that the high number of divorce cases and the issuance of Electronic Divorce Certificates has not been accompanied by a comparable number of population data updates. This situation demonstrates that digital transformation through E-Court and Electronic Divorce Certificates is still oriented towards digitizing internal judicial administrative processes (internal digital transformation), and has not yet developed into a transformation of governance (digital governance) capable of integrating information systems between agencies. Thus, digitalization has not eliminated the fragmentation of authority, but only transformed the form of documents from conventional to electronic without establishing an automatic data interoperability mechanism.

From a state of law perspective, this situation indicates an implementation gap between judicial decisions and state administration, so that the effectiveness of court decisions still depends on the administrative actions of citizens. From a legal certainty perspective, the requirement for manual reporting after a decision becomes legally binding still creates administrative legal uncertainty, because administrative recognition of a person's legal status is not obtained directly through a court decision. Therefore, this study confirms that the main problem lies not in the substance of divorce law, but rather in the failure to establish a system of authority integration and data interoperability between the Supreme Court and the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration.

Based on these findings, this study offers a novelty in the form of a Trigger-Based Administrative Integration Model, a model of authority reconstruction that places a legally binding divorce decision as a legal trigger to automatically update population status through information system interoperability between the Supreme Court and the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration. This model shifts the paradigm of administrative implementation from administrative separation to integrated administrative governance, so that a legal event is only recorded once (a single legal event) but results in simultaneous data updates across the entire state administration system (a single source of truth). This reconstruction is

expected to strengthen the effectiveness of court decisions, ensure legal certainty, improve the accuracy of national population data, support the implementation of One Data Indonesia, and realize integrated, efficient public services oriented towards protecting citizens' constitutional rights.

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