

# The Lake Assignment

<https://thisiscriminal.com/episode-117-the-lake-6-21-2019/>

This podcast focuses on child neglect, social justice, and the nurse's role in involving the state. After listening, answer the following questions completely. You must include at least 1 scholarly source within the last 5 years that addresses child abuse or removing children from parental custody to support your opinion in at least one of the questions. This source must be properly cited with in-text citations and the full citation must be provided in APA format. **Total word-count for this assignment is to be no less than 600 words** (this only applies to the content of your answers, not the questions or citations).

1. Do you think that investigators (DCFS/police) made assumptions based on the social status of Amanda and Maurice?

In this situation, emotions were running high. Three children, ages six, three, and 23 months were dead, and no one truly knew what happened. Based on the scenario, it seems police investigated and searched for information as they should. However, the investigators may have taken advantage of Amanda and Maurice based on their social status. Amanda interviewed several times without a lawyer present. The detectives aggressively accused Amanda that her children may have been "baggage" that she and Maurice might have gotten rid of due to their challenging financial situation.

2. Based on your knowledge of psychotropic medications, do you think it was appropriate for investigators to interrogate Amanda after receiving 3 different medications while admitted in an inpatient psych unit? (this occurs around 11 mins in).

I strongly disagree with the investigator's decision to interrogate Amanda while in the inpatient psych unit. Based on Amanda's admission to a psych unit, she was not in a stable psychological state. She had just lost her three children, which is a traumatic experience, no matter the scenario. Further, while Amanda was under the influence of three different psychological medications, the interrogation was severely inappropriate. As an example, a common psychotropic medication is risperidone. Common adverse reactions of risperidone include confusion, decreased concentration, mania, memory loss, and nervousness (Jones and Bartlett Learning, 2020). A medication such as risperidone could have altered Amanda's thought process and decision-making, making her statements unreliable.

3. Based on Maurice's testimony (about 15 mins in) regarding his behavior with Amanda's children, do you think he was acting maliciously or using poor judgment during the day of the accident?

Based on Maurice's testimony, I have mixed emotions. He said he enjoyed Amanda's children and enjoyed playing pranks on them. Amanda's mother stated that Maurice was terrific with the children. His previous girlfriends all agreed that he was caring for their children and exhibited excellent patience. However, the part of the testimony where Maurice admits to repeatedly cheating on Amanda, not loving her, and pretending to hide one of the children in the

oven put some doubt in my mind. All in all, I agree with one of the jurors that stated following his sentencing, he did not act maliciously and purposely murder the children. He used poor judgment, resulting in three dead children.

4. Do you think there was a racial bias that impacted Maurice's sentence more than Amanda's?

Yes, I think there was racial bias involved in Maurice's sentence. For example, the prosecution accused Maurice of wanting Amanda's children gone so he could "smoke marijuana, have sex, not working, and live off his girlfriend. The prosecution pushed further, informing the jurors Maurice was demoted from a job because he couldn't count change. Whether this information was accurate or not, it painted Maurice's negative image in the jurors' minds. Also, the judge gave the jury only two options for Maurice, either murder or innocence. He was not given the choice of involuntary manslaughter. Therefore, he ended up getting life in prison.

5. Since Amanda was convicted of child endangerment, do you think she has the right to have additional children after serving her time in prison?

Although it is a challenging decision, I do believe Amanda has the right to have children. Would it be best for Amanda not to have more children based on her previous experience? Most likely, the answer is yes. However, if she is a free woman, she has the right to have children as she pleases. In this scenario, a law that comes to mind is the Double Jeopardy Clause in the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution. This clause prohibits anyone from being prosecuted twice for the same crime (Cornell Law School, n.d.). Amanda had served her sentence and should not be accused of possible neglect based on her previous sentence.

6. Do you think the hospital staff had the right to notify DCFS that Amanda Hamm had more children? What about the father's rights?

I believe that the hospital staff had the right to notify DCFS, seeing that they are mandatory reporters in scenarios they feel a child is at risk. However, Amanda Hamm had served her time and had been freed; therefore, DCFS did not have the right to take the children.

7. What is your opinion on "anticipatory neglect" in this case? Do you think that the courts ruled in the benefit of the Hamm-Ware children in this case?

Overall, I feel that "anticipatory neglect" can be an excellent concept that can prevent children's harming before it occurs. However, I do not believe the accusation is appropriate in this case. There were no reports of neglect of the three children, and others reported the couple cared well for the children. The final decision to give permanent legal rights to the children's aunt was for the Hamm-Ware children's benefit. The children will be cared for by a more stable guardian while both of their parents can visit.

Reference:

Cornell Law School. (n.d.) Double jeopardy. [https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/double\\_jeopardy](https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/double_jeopardy)

Jones and Bartlett Learning. (2020). *Nurse's drug handbook*. (19th ed.). Jones and Bartlett Learning, LLC.

## The Lake Assignment Rubric N433: Clinical Learning Activity

Minimum Word Count: 600 words

CRITERION	POOR	FAIR	GOOD
<p><b>-Concise and Complete</b></p> <p><i>Total Weight- 3 points</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Content is incomplete.</li> <li>- Major points are not clear and /or persuasive</li> </ul> <p><b>Weight-1 point</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Content is not comprehensive and /or persuasive.</li> <li>- Major points are addressed, but not well supported.</li> <li>- Research is inadequate or does not address course concepts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weight- 2 points</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Content is comprehensive, accurate, and persuasive.</li> <li>- Major points are stated clearly and are well supported.</li> <li>- Content and purpose of the writing are clear.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weight- 3 points</b></p>
<p><b>Thoughtful Reflection- How will this affect your practice or will it?</b></p> <p><i>Total Points- 10 points</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paper lacks many elements of correct formatting.</li> <li>- Paragraphs are inadequate or excessive in length.</li> <li>-Unspecific as to how simulation meets learning objectives.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weight- 1 point</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paper follows most guidelines.</li> <li>- Paper is under word length.</li> <li>-Lacks some specifics as to how simulation meets learning objectives.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weight- 5 points</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paper follows designated guidelines.</li> <li>- Paper is the appropriate length as described for the assignment.</li> <li>-States clearly as to how simulation meets learning objectives.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weight- 10 points</b></p>
<p><b>APA Format Correct spelling/Grammar.</b></p> <p><b>At least 1 scholarly reference required.</b></p> <p><i>Total Weight- 10 points</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Lack of APA format.</li> <li>-Paper contains numerous grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors.</li> <li>- Language <b>uses jargon or conversational tone</b></li> <li>-Lack of APA citation use and Reference page if references used.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weight- 1 point</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inappropriate APA format.</li> <li>- Paper contains few grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors.</li> <li>- Language lacks clarity or includes <b>the use of some jargon or conversational tone.</b></li> <li>-Inappropriate APA citation use and Reference page if references used.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weight- 5 points</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Correct APA format.</li> <li>-Rules of grammar, usage, and punctuation are followed; spelling is correct.</li> <li>- Language is clear and precise; sentences display consistently strong, varied structure</li> <li>-Correct APA citation and reference page if references used.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weight- 10 points</b></p>
<p><b>Paper submitted to dropbox within 72 hours of the simulation experience.</b></p> <p><i>Total Weight- 2 points</i></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Paper submitted to dropbox on time.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weight- 2 points</b></p>

Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_