

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?

I do not feel as if DCFS or the police made assumptions about Amanda and Maurice's social status. It is their job to take all parent characteristics into consideration when there's children in danger or children who have been put in danger. Considering socioeconomic status as well as race and background profiling is essential to finding the reasoning as to why this happened to three innocent children, since both were claiming it was an accident. Because the reports were so different, such as Amanda and Maurice's clothes being wet or dry, there must be a raised suspicion about their claims. According to Lawson et. al, 2017, parents with poverty related insecurities such as lack of food, shelter, safety, and other subjects of low socioeconomic status will cause dangerously high stress levels for the parents, often leading to childhood maltreatment. It is crucial not to overlook the underlying factors of each situation.

Reference:

Lawson, G. M., Camins, J. S., Wisse, L., Wu, J., Duda, J. T., Cook, P. A., Gee, J. C., & Farah, M. J. (2017). Childhood socioeconomic status and childhood maltreatment: Distinct associations with brain structure. *PLOS one*, *12*(4). <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0175690>

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

I feel as if any time frame is appropriate to interrogate the mother in this situation. Therefore, I believe it was appropriate for the investigators to interrogate Amanda after receiving three different medications. The medications may cause multiple side effects, especially in this case when being administered three different medications, but it shouldn't have skewed her judgement or knowledge in what she knew about the murders of her children. If anything, these medications helped calm her down enough to talk about the situation to investigators.

- 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 believe he was acting maliciously during the day of the accident. He intended the harm that happened, in my opinion. My instant thought when hearing his testimony was, "Why the heck would anyone 'joke' about driving into the water while having a car full of children?" That is malicious and just evil to even think about doing that sort of thing. His excuse was that he hesitated to hit the brake... why would he even hesitate for one second to save the children? I have so many questions.
- 4. Do you think there was a racial bias that impacted Maurice's sentence more than Amanda's?** I do believe that there was a racial bias that impacted Maurice's sentence more than Amanda's. Even Steve, Amanda's lawyer, mentioned that he feels as if race/background of the defendant did have an effect on his process of conviction. He went on explaining how Maurice was an unemployed, young black man, dating a white woman. I feel as if she deserved as much time as Maurice did, because she even admitted to knowing that he was planning to do this to her children. She deserved to be punished more than five years.
- 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?** Amanda does not have the right to have additional children after being convicted of child endangerment, in my opinion. Amanda is not well educated, often puts herself into harmful situation with men, and does not have a great employment history. She should not be able to just 'start over' with a new and forget what happened to her children. She will more than likely allow men in the future to do what they want to her and her new children, putting her in the same situation as before.
- 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?** Absolutely. DCFS had every right to know about this, regarding Amanda's past. She is physically unfit and mentally unstable to care for any more children. She has completely shut out her past life to try and cope with her everyday life, while still claiming innocence, after she already told investigators that she was aware of Maurice's plan. The father was not involved in the past situation- however, his personal background should be considered knowing that Amanda has a pattern of choosing abusive, unlawful men to date.
- 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?** The court's focus is on the minors in this case. There is no waiting for the second set of children to get hurt. DCFS must be able to analyze home situations of

children who are born after the situation that happened in the past. I do feel as if the courts ruled in the benefit of the children to make sure that the children are safe. Leo wares sister was given custody of the children, which is also probably best for the children, rather than foster homes. Amanda should not be allowed to care for her three new children. The courts identified that Leo had felony convictions & history of hitting Amanda, and that Amanda has a history with drugs and alcohol. These two do not seem like a great fit as parents, especially knowing that Leo could not pass a drug test.

The Lake Assignment Rubric N433: Clinical Learning Activity

Minimum Word Count: 600 words

CRITERION	POOR	FAIR	GOOD
<p>-Concise and Complete</p> <p><i>Total Weight- 3 points</i></p>	<p>- Content is incomplete.</p> <p>- Major points are not clear and /or persuasive</p> <p>Weight-1 point</p>	<p>- Content is not comprehensive and /or persuasive.</p> <p>- Major points are addressed, but not well supported.</p> <p>- Research is inadequate or does not address course concepts.</p> <p>Weight- 2 points</p>	<p>- Content is comprehensive, accurate, and persuasive.</p> <p>- Major points are stated clearly and are well supported.</p> <p>- Content and purpose of the writing are clear.</p> <p>Weight- 3 points</p>
<p>Thoughtful Reflection- How will this affect your practice or will it?</p> <p><i>Total Points- 10 points</i></p>	<p>- Paper lacks many elements of correct formatting.</p> <p>- Paragraphs are inadequate or excessive in length.</p> <p>-Unspecific as to how simulation meets learning objectives.</p> <p>Weight- 1 point</p>	<p>- Paper follows most guidelines.</p> <p>- Paper is under word length.</p> <p>-Lacks some specifics as to how simulation meets learning objectives.</p> <p>Weight-5 points</p>	<p>- Paper follows designated guidelines.</p> <p>- Paper is the appropriate length as described for the assignment.</p> <p>-States clearly as to how simulation meets learning objectives.</p> <p>Weight-10 points</p>
<p>APA Format Correct spelling/Grammar.</p> <p>At least 1 scholarly reference required.</p> <p><i>Total Weight- 10 points</i></p>	<p>-Lack of APA format.</p> <p>-Paper contains numerous grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors.</p> <p>- Language uses jargon or conversational tone</p> <p>-Lack of APA citation use and reference page</p> <p>Weight- 1 point</p>	<p>- Inappropriate APA format.</p> <p>- Paper contains few grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors.</p> <p>- Language lacks clarity or includes the use of some jargon or conversational tone.</p> <p>-Inappropriate APA citation use and reference page</p> <p>Weight- 5 points</p>	<p>-Correct APA format.</p> <p>-Rules of grammar, usage, and punctuation are followed; spelling is correct.</p> <p>- Language is clear and precise; sentences display consistently strong, varied structure</p> <p>-Correct APA citation and reference page</p> <p>Weight- 10 points</p>
<p>Paper submitted to dropbox within 72 hours of the simulation experience.</p> <p><i>Total Weight- 2 points</i></p>			<p>-Paper submitted to dropbox on time.</p> <p>Weight- 2 points</p>

Total Points: _____