

# 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 ultimately think that everyone involved with the case made assumptions based on Amanda and Maurice's social life. Some risk factors that are generally associated with child abuse include substance abuse, single parenting, psychological problems, insufficient income to support a child's needs, and unbalanced family relationships (Perkins, 2018). Amanda and Maurice lived in a subsidized apartment and barely made ends meet while receiving public assistance. Maurice was a young unemployed black man living off of his girlfriend. The prosecutor also made it a point in Maurice's case to argue that the kids got in the way of Maurice's social life, which included having sex and smoking marijuana. Therefore, I believe that because Amanda and Maurice lived off of public assistance with three children, were not wealthy individuals, were in a biracial relationship, and had several risk factors associated with child abuse, they were seen differently and not treated as fairly as they should have been.

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).

Amanda was just admitted into an inpatient psychiatric unit and given three psychotropic medications. Psychotropic medications can affect your behavior, mood, thoughts, or perception. Therefore, based on my knowledge, I believe it was completely inappropriate for them to interrogate Amanda during that time. Psychotropic medications can cause many side effects, such as confusion, agitation, sleepiness, and memory problems. They should not have interrogated Amanda until she adjusted to the medications and was in her right state of mind because Amanda most likely gave false information due to the side effects from the medications.

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?

I believe Maurice had poor judgment but did not intentionally mean to harm the children. Maurice talked about how he played pranks on the children, like putting them in the turned-off oven and acting like he was going to drive into the water on the day of the incident. Although I believe the pranks are not normal joking matters, I do not believe Maurice meant to cause any harm by it. Maurice's ex-girlfriends even testified, stating that he never mistreated any of their children. Therefore, I believe this was just a horrible freak accident that included some poor judgment and bad parenting.

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

I fully believe Maurice's sentence was far worse than Amanda's, partly due to his racial status. Maurice was an unemployed young black man who was dating a white woman and living with her and her three white children. Maurice was being tried for nine counts of first-degree murder and got sentenced to life in prison. Maurice's judge in the case would not allow the jury to consider involuntary manslaughter for a lesser offense, so the jury only had the option of convicting Maurice of murder. Whereas Amanda's judge allowed the jury to consider child endangerment charges. Therefore, the jury convicted Amanda of child endangerment, and she was sentenced to only five years in prison. Although Maurice was driving the car, I believe neither of them intentionally meant to harm the children, and they should have been tried the same, but they weren't, which leads me to believe that Maurice was prosecuted to the full extent of the law because he was an unemployed black man dating a white woman with three white children.

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?

This is a tough question because I do not believe Amanda intentionally harmed her children, but I do believe that anyone who puts a child or children at risk to be harmed does not deserve to have other children. Amanda was charged with child endangerment because she put her children in harm's way. Therefore, I do not believe Amanda should be allowed to have any more children in her custody because who's to say she wouldn't put additional children in harm's way.

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 do not think that the hospital staff had the right to notify DCFS. Amanda Hamm came to the hospital to deliver her third baby when hospital staff approached her to confirm it was her. The hospital staff invaded her privacy and had no current reason why they would have needed to call DCFS. They used her past against her, and I do not feel that is right. Although I previously stated I do not feel that anyone who has put children in harm's way before should have children again, that is not my call to make. The father should have also been allowed to keep his rights and the children. If the father has had no past history of child endangerment or abuse, he should not be punished for Amanda's past.

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?

Anticipatory neglect is when you anticipate that someone is going to be a future risk to someone else. Amanda was charged with child endangerment. Child endangerment and neglect are not the same things. Child endangerment is when you put a child in a dangerous situation. Neglect is failing to provide a child with their basic needs. I understand that her putting her children at risk in the past would make people worry about if she will do it in the future to her other children, but anticipatory neglect is not the correct way to go about it. I do not think the courts ruled in favor of the Hamm-Ware children. They took the children away from their parents for no good reason, and I think that will only hurt the children in the end. If they want to punish Amanda for her past, that's one thing, but the father and children should not have been punished for a past event that they had nothing to do with.

### **References**

- Perkins, A. (2018). The Red Flags of Child Abuse. *Nursing Made Incredibly Easy!*, 16(2), 34–41. <https://doi.org/10.1097/01.nme.0000529946.76463.6b>

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_