

The Lake Assignment

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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.

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

I, personally, do not think the investigators made assumptions based on the social status of Amanda and Maurice. I believe they looked at the situation at hand, along with evidence from the scene of the accident and their stories, to conclude what happened that evening at Clinton Lake. I believe the investigators looked into their social status and considered it, as they do with other aspects of the investigation or with any other person in this situation. The investigators have experience with persons from all different kinds of social statuses and are trained to identify what matters most in an investigation and what does not.

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 believe it depends on what psychotropic medications Amanda was given. Was she assessed before the investigators interrogated her to make sure she was oriented? Was Amanda given mood stabilizers to change her so-called hysterical mood? How long before the interrogation was Amanda administered these medications, and was she given them during the interrogation? I feel like there are too many unanswered questions in the podcast to provide an opinion. Suppose she was given something like a mood stabilizer. In that case, the interrogation should have waited because this could have altered her initial reaction to the incident, giving off that she was heartless and did not care for her children. However, then again, many people take psychotropic medications daily, and it would be no different from interrogating them outside of the unit. I also know that people tend to get tired of all the questions during lengthy interrogation and ultimately admit to things that are not necessarily true. All in all, if she was given three different psychotropic medications that may have been new to her body, the interrogation should have waited.

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 his testimony and admitting that he “jokingly” played devious jokes on the kids, like placing one of them in the oven or jokingly driving into a lake, it seems pretty malicious to me. Not being able to count change does not mean you cannot plan a murder. That means you are not very good at math. Ottis Toole was an American Serial Killer beginning at the age of fourteen until he was apprehended in 1983. He only had an IQ level of 75 and was diagnosed as mentally handicapped. Toole was convicted of six murder charges but claimed he had killed over 100 with the help of his partner Henry Lee Lucas (Ottis Toole, 2017). The point being, a person does not have to be considered “smart” in order to commit heinous crimes. I believe Maurice felt like Amanda’s children were in the way of him living his best life, so he decided to do something about it.
<https://www.crimemuseum.org/crime-library/serial-killers/ottis-toole/>

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

I feel like Maurice was the one to commit the crime, so he got a fair punishment for it. Anyone who has grown up around Central Illinois could probably tell you that anything that sits in water gets slippery, i.e., a boat ramp. The science behind this does not have to apply to a boat ramp, but for instance, a bottle sitting in the shower once wet becomes slippery and hard to grasp. I understand the reasoning for Amanda’s charge for “child endangerment” because she was the one keeping Maurice around and putting her children in harm’s way. Amanda filed a complaint that Maurice had hit her but then retracted her statement, as do many domestic violence victims, for fear of repercussions from the abuser. That was only one instance that we know of; there could be more. If it were up to me, I would have tried her with murder charges, as well, because her initial reaction was to call for help instead of trying to save her children. You can ask any mother who has been in harm’s way what their first initial reaction was, and they would tell you to protect their child. The fact that she did not even try to save her children but instead swam to shore and called 9-1-1 seemed odd to me. I do not believe race played a factor in the charges, but maybe because he has hit her before and the “jokes” he played on the children did.

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 question is a tricky question to answer. Part of me thinks that since she was convicted of this, no she should not have the right to have additional children for the mere fact that she has a history of being with guys who make poor decisions and are abusive. The other part of me thinks that if she can prove the children are well taken care of and provided for, she should be able to have more children. I do feel as though Amanda got off easy on her conviction. After looking into the court files about the case, a statement by Amanda was made saying she knew what was going to happen that evening at the lake, and they watched the

children drown (DeWitt County, IL: Case History, 2006). After reading this statement, I feel like she should not be allowed to have any more children.

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 the hospital had every right to notify DCFS. As nurses, we advocate for anyone who steps foot into the hospital, whether they are a day old or one hundred years old. Based on her conviction, DCFS should look into the family's home life and ensure all children are safe. I believe the father should be looked into to make sure he has no prior convictions that would put the children in harm's way. Taking the children to a safe place while this is being determined was necessary and the best course of action. After the investigation, the father's rights to the children were not stripped, and DCFS awarded him with unsupervised visits with the children, which sounds reasonable to me.

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?

I could see how anticipatory neglect was considered in this case. For this to be filed within Illinois, a parent must be accused of abuse or neglect (DCFS cases and child protection services, 2020). In this case, Amanda was convicted of child endangerment, which is ultimately neglect. I believe the court ruling benefitted the children because it is not like they will not ever see their mother or father again; they are just going to see their mother during supervised visits. It did not specify in the podcast that it had to be supervised by a DCFS worker, so this means it could be supervised by Amanda's mother or some other relative, making it seem like a family get-together with the children.

References:

- DCFS cases and child protection services*. Illinois Legal Aid Online. (2020, May 24).
<https://www.illinoislegalaid.org/legal-information/dcfs-cases-and-child-protection-services>.
- DeWitt County, IL: Case History*. Judici.com. (2006, March 10).
https://www.judici.com/courts/cases/case_history.jsp?court=IL020015J&ocl=IL020015J%2C2003CF101%2CIL020015JL2003CF101D1.
- Ottis Toole*. Crime Museum. (2017, July 19).
<https://www.crimemuseum.org/crime-library/serial-killers/ottis-toole/>.

**The Lake Assignment Rubric
N433: Clinical Learning Activity**

**Debriefing Journal Rubric
Minimum Words: 100 per question**

CRITERIA	POOR	FAIR	GOOD
<p>Concise and Complete</p> <p align="center">Total: 3 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content is incomplete. • Major points are not clear and /or persuasive <p align="center">1 point</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content is not comprehensive and /or persuasive. • Major points are addressed, but not well supported. • Research is inadequate or does not address course concepts. <p align="center">2 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content is comprehensive, accurate, and persuasive. • Major points are stated clearly and are well supported. • Content and purpose of the writing are clear. <p align="center">3 points</p>
<p>Thoughtful Reflection- How will this affect your practice?</p> <p align="center">Total: 10 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper lacks many elements of correct formatting. • Paragraphs are inadequate or excessive in length. • Unspecific as to how simulation meets learning objectives. <p align="center">1 point</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper follows most guidelines. • Paper is under word length. • Lacks some specifics as to how simulation meets learning objectives. <p align="center">5 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper follows designated guidelines. • Paper is the appropriate length as described for the assignment. • States clearly as to how simulation meets learning objectives. <p align="center">10 points</p>
<p>APA Format Correct spelling/Grammar.</p> <p>At least 1 scholarly reference required.</p> <p>Each question is answered with at least 100 words</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of APA format. • Paper contains numerous grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors. • Language uses jargon or conversational tone • Lack of APA citation use and Reference page if references used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate APA format. • Paper contains few grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors. • Language lacks clarity or includes the use of some jargon or conversational tone. • Inappropriate APA citation use and reference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct APA format • Use of 1 scholarly reference • Rules of grammar, usage, and punctuation are followed; spelling is correct. • Language is clear and precise; sentences display consistently strong, varied structure

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-3 questions do not meet the 100-word requirement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 questions meet the 100-word requirement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct APA citation and reference page if references used. • All questions meet the 100-word requirement
Total: 10 points	1 point	5 points	10 points
Paper submitted to Dropbox within 72 hours of the simulation experience.			Paper submitted to Dropbox on time.
Total: 2 points			2 points

Total Points: _____