

The Lake Assignment

Follow this link to listen to the Podcast: [Criminal: The Lake](#)

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.

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

The investigators of this case did not provide a fair investigation of this case. Due to the social status of Amanda and Maurice, police assumed the mother, Amanda, was in need of money and that her children were getting in the way of her relationship with Maurice. Investigators also made the assumption that Maurice saw the children as a nuisance, and he wanted them dead so he could "smoke marijuana all day." This nursing student believed the authorities saw both Maurice and Amanda as people that did not have a lot of money and could not afford good lawyers. This lack of funds made their case easy and allowed them to choose the convictions that seemed fit without investigating to the full degree.

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).

Knowing the background of many psychotropic drugs, many of them have side effects such as drowsiness, memory impairment, and other mind-altering effects. The event of interrogating Amanda while she was under the influence of multiple medical-grade medications is inappropriate. The drugs could have altered Amanda's recall of the events leading up to the incident and the events following. Psychotropic medications are used to decrease anxiety and may have caused Amanda to be more willing to agree with the people interviewing her. It was also mentioned that this interview lasted nearly 7 hours which is an inappropriate length of time to interview someone.

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 the testimony and evidence surrounding the trial, this nursing student does not believe Maurice was acting with malicious intent. Maurice was using poor judgment by trying to "pull a prank" on the children by acting as he would drive in the water. Maurice didn't intend or plan to drive in the lake, but his lack of judgment resulted in the death of three children. It was stated in the interview that he often played poor-tasting pranks on the children, like putting them in the oven while it was off. This behavior is not appropriate in the presence of children, but it does not mean that he was using malicious intent.

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

This nursing student believes there was a racial bias in the case of Maurice's sentence. Maurice was not given a chance to plea under involuntary manslaughter as a lesser offense. Maurice was only offered to plead guilty of first-degree murder or not guilty; Maurice received a life sentence in prison. The jurors were also asked how they felt about biracial relationships, given that Maurice was African American and Amanda was Caucasian. Maurice was painted as someone that didn't have any prospects and lived off of Amanda. Amanda was given the option of child endangerment and only received five years in prison.

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

The case presents a problematic standing between opinions and fundamental human rights. A past conviction of child endangerment does not impact Amanda's right to be a parent. Humans have autonomy and can reproduce no matter what their past convictions look like. Although the occurrence of Amanda's children dying could have been prevented, it does not take away her right to be a parent. After serving her time in prison she could no longer be prosecuted for her crime; this includes her ability to have children. Amanda was sentenced under child endangerment; this is known as an occurrence that may cause harm, danger, or death to a child (Izuchukwu, 2020).

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

The hospital staff did not have the right to notify DCFS in the Hamm-Ware case. There was no present evidence of child abuse or neglect. The mere fact that Amanda was having another child in the hospital doesn't present evidence of child abuse or neglect. The authorities assumed that Leo and Amanda were unable to provide proper care for their children based on Amanda's past convictions. Given that there were no indications of harm to the children, Leo would have full parental rights, as should Amanda. To the nursing student, it seems as though the hospital staff was not respecting patient rights and did not report child abuse based on evidence but on their own opinions.

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?

In the case of Amanda, this nursing student does not support the action of anticipatory neglect. Amanda was sentenced to five years; after her sentence, she had the right to start a new life and even a new family. Amanda's sentence was served; therefore, she cannot be prosecuted further. Unless there were signs of child endangerment, the hospital and courts had no reason to investigate Amanda starting a new family. The decision to pull Leo and Amanda's children was not based on any signs of current neglect, and rather it was based on the assumption that Amanda was going to hurt her children as a result of her past.

Reference

Izuchukwu, I. (2020, August 23). *Child endangerment and everything that encompasses it*. Felonies.org. <https://felonies.org/child-endangerment-and-everything-that-encompasses-it/>.

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

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

CRITERIA	POOR	FAIR	GOOD
Concise and Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Content is incomplete.• Major points are	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Content is not comprehensive and /or persuasive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Content is comprehensive, accurate, and

<p style="text-align: center;">Total: 3 points</p>	<p>not clear and /or persuasive</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 point</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major points are addressed, but not well supported. • Research is inadequate or does not address course concepts. <p style="text-align: center;">2 points</p>	<p>persuasive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major points are stated clearly and are well supported. • Content and purpose of the writing are clear. <p style="text-align: center;">3 points</p>
<p>Thoughtful Reflection- How will this affect your practice?</p> <p style="text-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 style="text-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 style="text-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 style="text-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. • 2-3 questions do not meet the 100-word requirement <p style="text-align: center;">1 point</p>	<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 page if references used. • 3 questions meet the 100-word requirement <p style="text-align: center;">5 points</p>	<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 • Correct APA citation and reference page if references used. • All questions meet the 100-word requirement <p style="text-align: center;">10 points</p>

Total: 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: _____