

The lake assignment

1.

Yes, I do believe that the investigators made base assumptions about the family. Several things mentioned suggest that they were on aid from the government due to the children. That would be a different story if the children were no longer present. They also assume that Amanda is trying to get away from her children and go to school elsewhere. However, she applies for herself and her children at this new location in the application. These assumptions are not logical but are a baseline that investigators may use to make sense of this case but do not hold any water when looking into the facts that disprove their suggestions.

2.

When Amanda was admitted to the psychiatric unit, she was given medications called psychotropic medication. This kind of medication can help someone calm down and relax when in a manic state. These investigators seemed to have used this as an opportunity to try to convince her that Maurice was suggesting that they get rid of the children. In this state caused by the drugs she was on, she would be more accessible and more open to suggesting different scenarios. This may be due to confusion or being mentally incapacitated due to the medication. This means she was more susceptible to going along with the story that the investigators wanted her to agree with.

3.

I would be on the side that says he was using poor judgment from what I was hearing. In the podcast, Maurice got demoted from being at the cash register due to not functioning it or counting the change. This is a low-stress situation and does not cause much alarm, even if it is difficult. If you put this same person in a life-or-death situation and ask them to save others, I do not think this would turn out any different. You are talking about someone who should not be driving in the first place because you cannot even run a cash register. I do not think he knew what he was doing, made a mistake, and panicked when trying to rescue the children.

4.

Racial bias may have played a part in this case when it comes to the convictions. A witness of the trial even talks about how his race affected his trial, being a black man with a white girlfriend and three white children. Also, being in a state where racial tensions are usually heightened could not have helped his case. Being an unemployed black man living with a white girlfriend already gave him enough problems in the trial but being a black man up for killing three white children means there was already a count against him, most likely. If racial bias did not play a part in this trial, he might have gotten the same sentencing as Amanda.

5.

She is an American citizen that has the right to do anything she pleases that is not illegal. Just because you have had trouble in the past, you are supposed to be over that problem after you have served your time in prison. That means she had been punished, and now she is free of these charges. The government should not hinder you after this transaction

has been completed. The government has no right to anticipate what could happen. No children should be hurt or die, but sometimes things happen. This does not mean that the government should dictate people's lives based on past indiscretions.

6.

As a nurse, we are mandatory reporters, which is part of the job we do. On the other hand, if Amanda wanted her files private, she should have tried to do so. So, there is blame on both parts in this in my point of view. A nurse's job sometimes becomes an investigator if we see signs or symptoms that do not match up or seem right. We do this for the health and safety of our patients. It did not say anything about signs of abuse or problems with the family in this case. Therefore, this was just someone snooping into this person's life. Due to knowing about her past and what Amanda was convicted of. I do not think this is right as we are supposed to keep records of our patients private. I can see this question both ways, but I side with not going beyond the scope of what we are doing for our jobs.

7.

This can be good and bad in a lot of different ways. We, as nurses, can help prevent child abuse by reporting. Nurses should report if they have reasonable suspicion for abuse or neglect (Berthold et al., 2021). I understand why this is in place, but I also get that we are all just human. Sometimes we make such harsh and strict rules without the idea that sometimes things happen outside our control. The Hamm-Wares case is also different because you take away children from the father, who has had no legal trouble with children in the past, only that he is with Amanda. That is troubling as he should be in the custody of the children as he has done nothing wrong other than had the children with Amanda. I think that children should be with their parents if they are safe. There was no evidence that these children were in danger. They were taken away due to anticipatory neglect, which I think should not be used unless evidence of neglect or abuse is present.

References

Berthold, O., Jud, A., Jarczok, M., Fegert, J. M., & Clemens, V. (2021). Reasonable suspicion in reporting child maltreatment: a survey among German healthcare professionals. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health, 15*(1), 28. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13034-021-00381-7>