

# 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 700 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?**

No, Maurice had control of the vehicle, choosing to park it on a boat ramp facing the water for a prank, in Maurice's words (WAND-TV, 2020). Maurice continued that the actual drowning was unintentional; however, the intention to put the children in danger was present. The investigators could look at the situation and quickly identify the gross negligence based upon where and how the car entered the lake. Standing in the shoes of the investigators, this could at best be gross negligence and, at worst willful murder. Given the fact that three children died makes this case especially heinous and warrants careful investigation.

**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).**

It is appropriate for law enforcement to perform an interview; however, the medication's timing, amount, and adverse effects matter. Some medications would likely stabilize her mood and help her focus; however, some medications such as barbiturates could impair the individual when first being taken. Perhaps it would not be appropriate for law enforcement to perform an interview when the effects of a medication are not yet known. If an interviewee is impaired, her testimony should not affect the court ruling. It would be prudent to consult a lawyer and take their advice when dealing with the police in any situation like this.

**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?**

An opinion of this case should not form on an audio recording alone. Maurice may or may not have acted maliciously; the fact remains that he decided of his

own free will to place those children on a boat ramp facing the water (WAND-TV, 2020). Putting his girlfriend and her children on a boat ramp put them in proximal danger of death, which manifested as such. Maurice's desire to save himself coupled with an absence of trying to help the children could signal a lack of responsibility for actions he had caused. No one should put any children in proximal danger of death.

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

No, Maurice admitted he put all involved on the boat ramp when the car went into the water; this is why it would make sense that Maurice had higher charges than Amanda (WAND-TV, 2020). In addition, Maurice repeated concerning behavioral patterns such as infidelity, domestic abuse, and over-the-top pranks that put Amanda's kids in danger. An especially concerning pattern was that neither Amanda nor Maurice tried to save the children; even if they did not succeed, they could still attempt to save the children. It seems reasonable that racial bias would have nothing to do with this case unless positive, tangible evidence suggests racial bias.

**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?**

Yes; however, she should not have the right to be free from the investigation. The state should be required to prove the children are in a dangerous situation and the mother had not reformed herself. In this case, Amanda is now married to Leo Ware (Associated Press, 2015). Chicago police responded to a domestic abuse call after he caused bodily harm to his wife. Amanda said she feared for her life and her children due to Leo using drugs in the home. Amanda also refused to follow treatment relating to her psychological state; this gave the state enough reason to rule that the children's current environment was dangerous.

**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?**

Not only do hospital staff have the right to notify DCFS in a suspicious case, but they have a responsibility written in the law (Jack et al., 2021). Nurses are to report any observed or suspected abuse or neglect to child protective services. Leo Ware, being the father, has the right to see his children unless he contributes to a harmful environment; however, he has used drugs and was the perpetrator in a domestic abuse call (Associated Press, 2015). Even though parents have rights to their children, protecting them and ensuring safety should be a top priority for child services.

**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?**

Neglect seems likely due to the history of non-compliance and substance abuse concerning Amanda and Leo; however, life will still be difficult for the children without their parents. Considering the various sources cited throughout this assignment, it seems that Amanda is still troubled and struggling to be a competent caregiver. The state may make bad decisions occasionally, but the children are better off having a separate, competent caregiver. Anticipatory neglect may not be a good reason to remove children from their parents on a routine basis, but being exposed to repeated instances of illegal drug use and domestic violence can impair their innocence, which should be protected.

## References

- Associated Press. (2015, November 5). *Illinois mom who watched 3 kids drown fights for new family*. ABC13 Houston. Retrieved November 24, 2021, from <https://abc13.com/anticipating-harm-drowning-fighting-for-custody-amanda-hamm/1070104/>
- Jack, S. M., Gonzalez, A., Marcellus, L., Tonmyr, L., Varcoe, C., van Borek, N., Sheehan, D., MacKinnon, K., Campbell, K., Catherine, N., Kurtz Landy, C., MacMillan, H. L., & Waddell, C. (2021). Public health nurses' professional practices to prevent, recognize, and respond to suspected child maltreatment in home visiting: An interpretive descriptive study. *Global Qualitative Nursing Research*, 8, 2333393621993450.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/2333393621993450>
- WAND-TV. (2020, February 20). *Tragedy in clinton lake remembered*. Wandtv. Retrieved November 24, 2021, from [https://www.wandtv.com/news/tragedy-in-clinton-lake-remembered/article\\_2e66d71a-5461-11ea-8ed9-6315982cf787.html](https://www.wandtv.com/news/tragedy-in-clinton-lake-remembered/article_2e66d71a-5461-11ea-8ed9-6315982cf787.html)

## The Lake Assignment Rubric N433: Clinical Learning Activity

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

CRITERIA	POOR	FAIR	GOOD
<p><b>Concise and Complete</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total: 3 points</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content is incomplete.</li> <li>• Major points are not clear and /or persuasive</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>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 style="text-align: center;"><b>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 style="text-align: center;"><b>3 points</b></p>
<p><b>Thoughtful Reflection - How will this affect your practice?</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total: 10 points</b></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 style="text-align: center;"><b>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 style="text-align: center;"><b>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 style="text-align: center;"><b>10 points</b></p>
<p><b>APA Format Correct spelling/Grammar.</b></p> <p><b>At least 1 scholarly reference required.</b></p> <p><b>Each question is answered with at least 100 words</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total: 10 points</b></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 uses jargon or conversational tone</li> <li>• Lack of APA citation use and Reference page if references used.</li> <li>• 2-3 questions do not meet the 100-word requirement</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>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 the use of some jargon or conversational tone.</li> <li>• Inappropriate APA citation use and reference page if references used.</li> <li>• 3 questions meet the 100-word requirement</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>5 points</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correct APA format</li> <li>• Use of 1 scholarly reference</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> <li>• All questions meet the 100-word requirement</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>10 points</b></p>
<p><b>Paper submitted to Dropbox within 72 hours of the simulation experience.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total: 2 points</b></p>			<p>Paper submitted to Dropbox on time.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2 points</b></p>

Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_