

The Lake Assignment – Happy Kalavadia

<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?

Amanda was a single mother living with her boyfriend, Maurice, struggling financially. Amanda does not have good employment history and does not have stability in her jobs. In addition, she got admitted into school at Saint Louis, where she had applied for housing. The three children were in the way of Maurice because Amanda spent the most time with the children, and hence in the case, Maurice admitted that he thought of harming the kids. DCFS made accurate assumptions based not only on social history but also on the criminal history of Amanda and Maurice as they were charged with nine counts of first-degree murder. In 1994, they did similar murder of drowning the children in a lake in the name of Susan Smith. By all these suspicions, I agree that DCFS made assumptions based on the social status of Amanda and Maurice.

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).

Yes, I agree that the police made the correct decision to interview Amanda after administering psychotropic medications. It would calm her down, not give false explanations about Maurice. She said that Maurice had admitted that he thought of harming the kids. I believe that DCFS made the correct decision of interviewing her after psychotropic medications, which will prevent her from giving false statements. In addition, the death of her three children was heartbreaking to witness. Hence, it was essential for Amanda to be admitted to the mental inpatient unit to prevent post-traumatic stress disorder. Amanda stated that Maurice wanted to harm her children, which makes sense because Maurice could spend more time with Amanda. In addition, their life would be less stressful without the kids.

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 think Maurice had preplanned everything before they went to Clinton lake. Accidents indeed happen, but the car's condition revealed something else. It was written in the car manual that if the vehicle is in reverse mode, the doors lock automatically. If the car is in reverse, why would the car start moving in the forward direction? In addition, they should have been able to break the window and help save the kids instead of just buying extra time to call 911 after the children are already drowned. I think that this was preplanned murder and not a false judgment. Maurice and Amanda planned to do this so that they can peacefully move to Saint Louis. Their life must be easier with the children since their condition was financially unstable.

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

I certainly think that Maurice and Amanda's sentences were a true example of racial injustice. Maurice was African American, so the police made assumptions that he was the one to kill the children and send them to prison for his entire life. However, Amanda is a Caucasian woman, and hence she was only sent to incarceration for five years. This is truly an example of racial injustice, and this is not the right decision made by the judge. The punishment for Amanda and Maurice should be equal since they were both involved in murdering their children and not just based on racial assumption.

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?

She definitely had a right to become a mother once again. She was guilty of murdering her own children. Still, many other factors were involved, like her financial struggles, relationship with Maurice, and unstable mental health issues. She should definitely be given the right to have her own biological children. Still, she should not be allowed to interact with them without surveillance. Since Amanda was convicted of child endangerment, she should not meet her children without police security for the kids' safety. It is difficult for a mother that she can't meet her own children by herself privately, but in Amanda's case, it is essential to implement this decision because of her previous child endangerment history.

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?

The physician recognized Amanda Ham after delivering her third child, and they called DCFS. They made the right decisions to inform them because Amanda could be a threat to her newborn baby. It is essential to notify DCFS for the safety of Amanda's children and to prevent her children from death. Amanda should not meet her children without the police's supervision because she might change her mind anytime and can harm her baby. The father of the child had full rights regarding the custody of children. However, it is dangerous to send the newborn with the father because Amanda lives with her husband, which can be hazardous. I think the DCFS made the right decision to give Amanda's newborn child custody to her sister-in-law. Amanda's husband can meet the children without any supervision. Still, in case Amanda should not be allowed to meet her children by herself. She should be continuously monitored while she is with her children.

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 can be defined as maltreatment of the child by directly or indirectly causing the child to suffer physically and emotionally (Child Abuse and neglect). Suppose a parent fails to provide basic needs such as food, shelter, medical treatments, and love to their children. In that case, the parents can be endangered by anticipatory neglect. I definitely think that the court ruled out in favor of Hamm-ware children because Amanda Ham cannot be trusted. After all, she was charged for anticipatory neglect and murder of her three children. She might again endanger the children. Hence, the court decided that the children's custody should be in the hands of Amanda's sister-in-law.

References

What is child abuse and neglect ... - child welfare. (n.d.). Retrieved December 3, 2021, from <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/whatiscan.pdf>.

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 style="text-align: right;">Total: 3 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content is incomplete. • Major points are not clear and /or persuasive <p style="text-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 style="text-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 style="text-align: center;">3 points</p>
<p>Thoughtful Reflection - How will this affect your practice?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of APA format. • Paper contains numerous grammatical, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate APA format. • Paper contains few grammatical, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct APA format • Use of 1 scholarly reference • Rules of grammar,

<p>reference required.</p> <p>Each question is answered with at least 100 words</p> <p>Total: 10 points</p>	<p>punctuation, and spelling errors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>1 point</p>	<p>punctuation and spelling errors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>5 points</p>	<p>usage, and punctuation are followed; spelling is correct.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>10 points</p>
<p>Paper submitted to Dropbox within 72 hours of the simulation experience.</p> <p>Total: 2 points</p>			<p>Paper submitted to Dropbox on time.</p> <p>2 points</p>

Total Points: _____