

## 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).

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

I do not believe that social status had much to do with this case. I believe this is a case about child endangerment. Amanda and Maurice were incredibly careless and unbelievably irresponsible with the lives of these children. While it is certainly possible that the investigators could have made assumptions about this couple based on their social status, I think these investigators were more concerned with finding out the truth about this case and exploring different possibilities as to why and how this unfortunate situation occurred. I believe the outcome of this case would have been the same if the couple was of high social status. This unfortunate event had more to do with selfishness and neglect than social status.

- **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 do not believe it was appropriate for investigators to interrogate Amanda after she received three different psychotropic medications. Amanda was not in an appropriate state of mind to be asked questions regarding this case. Psychotropic medications can alter a person's sense of reason and make them say or do things that they would not normally do if they were sober. Amanda was given three different medications and then expected to function at her baseline level, which is just not logical. The investigators should have waited to interrogate Amanda until she was of sound mind. It is not right to ask someone to defend themselves and tell an honest and truthful story while they are not in a normal state of mind.

- **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 such a short testimony, it is hard to say whether Maurice had malicious intentions or used poor judgment during this unfortunate incident. While there were statements from ex-girlfriends and others talking about how great Maurice is with children, I do not feel I have enough knowledge of the event to say it was just poor judgment. There was a conversation about Maurice and Amanda wanting to be free of the burden of Amanda's three children. There was a conspiracy that the couple wanted to free themselves from the children's responsibilities and that murdering them was the easy way out. There is not enough evidence on this podcast to make me believe this tragedy was either intentional or not intentional.

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

Steve Skelton stated that racial bias might be why Maurice's sentence is much longer than Amanda's. While I think this is a fair point to consider, I do not believe Maurice's skin color had much to do with his sentencing. Three children drowned at the hands-off Maurice. Whether this loss of life was intentional or if idiocy and poor judgment played a part is not essential knowledge. Arguing intention still does not change the fact that three children died in vain, and Maurice is to blame for this. I believe he deserved his sentencing no matter what race he was.

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

I do not believe Amanda should have any more children. Amanda allowed Maurice to help her take care of her children. She entrusted an abusive liar with her babies. Maurice would also tease the children and play tricks on them, and Amanda would see this and do nothing. Amanda is to blame for putting her children in harm's way. Maurice is not the type of man who should be allowed around children; however, Amanda allowed him into her home. Amanda is not fit to raise children and cannot protect innocent children from harm. It is essential to err on the side of caution in situations like these to prevent future recurrence and protect these innocent children.

- **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 certainly believe the hospital staff was right to notify DCFS about Amanda Hamm giving birth in the hospital. It is the care team's job to evaluate and report potentially abusive cases to protect the children involved (Roney et al., 2021). Amanda went to jail for child endangerment related to the death of her three children. This woman is unable to protect her children from deadly situations. Amanda has a pattern of allowing men into her life who are not good partners and are not safe for her children to be around. Hamm should not have the critical job of raising children safely.

It is unfortunate that the father of Hamm's children also got his children taken away because of Hamm's past. While the father did get visitation rights, it feels wrong to take the children away from him when his only crime was getting involved with someone who has a terrible past.

- **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 believe this is the best outcome for these children. I fully believe the Hamm-Ware children would have been endangered by being under the care of Amanda Hamm. Amanda has proved herself to be not fit to be a mother. The court must protect these children from the same fate that Amanda's first three children had. Erring on the side of caution is always best to prevent another tragedy. There is no reason for any more senseless death at the incompetence of Amanda Hamm. Preventing another tragedy and the safety of the Hamm-Ware children is the only thing that should be a priority in this case.



## References

Roney, L. N., Knapik, K. R., Eaves, T., Neitlich, J. A., & Lapointe, K. (2021). An Interprofessional Approach to Family-Centered Child Protective Services Referral: A Case Report. *Journal of Trauma Nursing*, 28(6), 401–405.

<https://doi.org/10.1097/jtn.0000000000000620>



<p><b>Total: 10 points</b></p>	<p>meets learning objectives.</p> <p><b>1 point</b></p>	<p><b>5 points</b></p>	<p>meets learning objectives.</p> <p><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><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><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><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><b>10 points</b></p>

<b>Paper submitted to Dropbox within 72 hours of the simulation experience.</b>			Paper submitted to Dropbox on time.
<b>Total: 2 points</b>			<b>2 points</b>

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