The Lake Assignment

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?
   a. The investigators made assumptions on the premise of Amanda and Maurice being an interracial couple. They saw a guy like Maurice, who was black and unemployed, trying to use Amanda to live off her. The police produced the theory that Maurice wanted to kill the kids and move away with Amanda as there would be "less baggage" attached. You can see this play out during their first interview with Amanda at the police station. Assume that Maurice is a white man in the same circumstances. Would the police be so quick to make a connection that this was a murder plot all along? Or would they say rule it as a fatal accident?

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).
   a. This was inappropriate to interview the woman under psychotropic medications and to make matters even worse. Police did not even record the interview. It seems like another one of the tricks the police use to make cases stick. You could make a case that the police coerce the woman to agreeing that Maurice planned to harm the children while not even competent enough to answer questions. The psychotropic medications affect our brains, and she was put on three different drugs and then interviewed for seven hours. No way should the woman have been interviewed in the first place. The judge should have ruled the interview inadmissible.

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?
   a. Based on the testimony outlined in the podcast, it is hard for me to say that Maurice is malicious with the kids. The only thing I can say so for sure guilty of is poor judgment. Maurice admitted he was not in love with

Amanda, but that doesn't mean he wanted to kill her kids. Maurice's ex-girlfriend testified on this man and said he was very patient with kids and caring. Maurice admitted to making jokes on the kids and even saying he pretended to put one of the kids in the oven, but it wasn't on as a prank. This seemed like a prank that went wrong, driving to the edge of the water pretending to go in, but Maurice panicked when going downhill and not hitting the break—ultimately leading the car and kids into the water.

4. Do you think there was a racial bias that impacted Maurice's sentence more than Amanda's?
   a. I believe it did regarding the charge but not the sentencing. The judge stated that the jury was not given a choice of charging the defendant with involuntary manslaughter. One of the jurors even said that they felt like it was not intentional, but he was put in a situation that got out of hand and did not save them. So, they found him guilty of murder charges, and since it was more than one person, Maurice was given a life sentence due to Illinois law. The same evidence was used for Amanda, and she was only convicted of child endangerment and received a sentence of five years. The only difference you can find in the trials is that Maurice is a black man.

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?
   a. In theory, you would hope someone in Amanda's case would be able to have kids again. All Child endangerment cases should be looked upon on a case-to-case basis. She did not have anything to do with her kids dying other than being in a relationship with a guy who was carelessly immature with driving. Maurice was at fault for an accident that went tragically wrong. So, in this case, I believe Amanda should have the right to have additional children and move on with her life. She served her time in prison. Is that not punishment enough for someone in her situation?

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?
   a. The hospital staff had the right to notify DCFS that Amanda had more children. From running her name, some red flags had to have popped up for them to be wary about. As nurses who mandated reporters, they must report such reports of suspected child abuse. Mandated reporters are professionals who may work with children in their professional duties. The following persons must immediately report to the Department when they have reasonable cause to believe that a child known to them in their professional or official capacities may be an abused child or neglected child, including all medical personnel such as physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, etc. (Illnois.gov, 2022). I believe the father should have retained rights to the children as he was not involved with the previous case at hand.

7. Reference: **Illnois.gov. (2022). *Child Protection - Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect*. Illinois. https://www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/safekids/reporting/Pages/index.aspx**

8. 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?

    The anticipatory neglect seems like it would work in theory because of someone who is convicted of child abuse. You anticipate they will abuse their next child as well. In the case of Hamm-Ware children, I think the anticipatory neglect did them a disservice. According to the podcast, the children were "thriving" in the care of Amanda and her husband. They already had two children. There had not been any reports of them being accused of being abusive towards the children or signs. Due to nurses being mandated reporters and anticipatory neglect, DCFS took the children. Unfortunately, it seemed like the judge wanted to prosecute her again for the 2003 case of her children dying. The judge ruled the children would be in her husband's sister's custody permanently. This did not benefit the children in this case.

The Lake Assignment Rubric
N433: Clinical Learning Activity

Debriefing Journal Rubric
Minimum Words: 100 per question

CRITERIA	POOR	FAIR	GOOD
Concise and Complete **Total: 3 points**	• Content is incomplete. • Major points are not clear and /or persuasive **1 point**	• Content is not comprehensive and / or persuasive. • Major points are addressed, but not well supported. • Research is inadequate or does not address course concepts. **2 points**	• Content is comprehensive, accurate, and persuasive. • Major points are stated clearly and are well supported. • Content and purpose of the writing are clear. **3 points**
Thoughtful Reflection - How will this affect your practice? **Total: 10 points**	• Paper lacks many elements of correct formatting. • Paragraphs are inadequate or excessive in length. • Unspecific as to how simulation meets learning objectives. **1 point**	• Paper follows most guidelines. • Paper is under word length. • Lacks some specifics as to how simulation meets learning objectives. **5 points**	• Paper follows designated guidelines. • Paper is the appropriate length as described for the assignment. • States clearly as to how simulation meets learning objectives. **10 points**
APA Format Correct spelling/Grammar. **At least 1 scholarly reference required.** **Each question is answered with at least 100 words** **Total: 10 points**	• 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 **1 point**	• 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 **5 points**	• 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 **10 points**
Paper submitted to Dropbox within 72 hours of the simulation experience. **Total: 2 points**			Paper submitted to Dropbox on time. **2 points**

Total Points: _____