

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?

I do not think the investigators made assumptions about Maurice and Amanda's social status. For proper investigation, it is essential to understand why a crime occurs. The only way police could try to understand their socioeconomic lifestyles and whether Amanda and Maurice had any reasons to want the kids dead. Wanting to live a stress-free life without kids, financial difficulties, or maybe the kids did not fit into their new lifestyle could be good reasons why Amanda and Maurice could have wanted the kids dead. The police just wanted to look at every possibility and understand why such a tragic incident could occur.

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).

Psychotropic refers to all drugs that affect the mind and treat or manage a psychiatric symptom or challenging behavior (Psychotropic medication side effects, 2019). Most psychotropic drugs have side effects like confusion, memory problems, headaches, panic disorders (Psychotropic medication side effects, 2019). After taking

three different psychotropic medications, Amanda may have experienced some of the side effects mentioned above, making it wrong for investigators to interrogate her because she may not be in her right frame of mind. Also, being in inpatient psych units invalidates all statements obtained mainly because the police officers do not know the patient's frame of mind and if the patient can relate facts.

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?

Maurice may have acted maliciously; however, his childhood and state of mind may have contributed to his actions or inaction. It was very risky parking the car with children strapped at the back on a Boat Ramp and a few inches from the water. It is never safe putting children in situations where they can be harmed(Safe kids, 2022), and in this case, he should take responsibility for parking the car on a boat ramp and not heeding to Amanda's instructions not to take his foot off the breaks while reversing. On the other hand, his socioeconomic background (Coulton et al., 2017), unstable childhood and genetic predisposition to psychological disorders, substance abuse, and history of irresponsibility, according to forensic psychologist Mark Cunningham (The People of the State of Illinois V. Maurice Lagrone, Jr., 2001), may have contributed to his poor judgment.

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

I think that racial bias and Maurice's socioeconomic background played a role in Maurice's sentencing more than Amanda's. The Criminal audio describes that potential jurors were asked how they felt about biracial relationships. The prosecutors argued that Maurice was lazy, living off women, and her children have gotten on his way to smoking marijuana. While this could be any man out there, it is evident that most minority men in society are associated with the life of drugs, women, and not working. Maurice being a black man, these stereotypes were emphasized as testimonies from Amanda's mom and Maurice's ex-girlfriends were ignored that he and the children had been closed and that he was a patient 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?

I think she should not be allowed to be around children or care for children because she seems not to have taken responsibility for the children's deaths. Leaving your children's faith in the hands of a boyfriend and her history of drugs and living with men who abuse her in one way or another, as seen in the documentary, is evident enough that she may not have learned her lessons despite serving her time. If she must have children, there should be rehab and resources for supervisory parenting with the social service and child protective services to ensure she lives in a stable and nonabusive environment.

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?

Deciding whether the hospital staff was right to notify the DCFS about Amanda depends first on the hospital policies and whether child endangerment convictions warrant an individual missing future parental rights to raise children. If Amanda did not

involve in any child endangerment habit, I do not see why the DCFS was called on her, except the state has a registry for people who endanger children and are not required to have any children. However, since the state of Illinois considers anticipatory neglect very important, I think it was okay that the hospital staff reported Amanda, as long as they had the baby's best interest through such action.

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?

I think the court and the state have probable cause to believe that Amanda could try to harm her other children, considering her history with drugs and alcohol and because she seemed to be in the habit of involving in abusive relations. She claimed that Maurice was abusive, and Mr. Ware was also abusive in the past. Also, Mr. Ware has had some criminal conviction records and felony convictions earlier in life. The court ruled in favor of Amanda's children because they were placed in the custody of Ware's sister and with visitation rights (unsupervised rights to Leo and supervised to Amanda). While it may not be fair to Leo, it is for the well-being of the children.

References:

Coulton, C. J., Korbin, J. E., & Su, M. (2017). *Neighborhoods and child maltreatment: A multi-level study*. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 23(11), 1019–1040.

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0145-2134\(99\)00076-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0145-2134(99)00076-9)

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Safe kids. Safe Kids - Safe Kids. (2022, January 14). Retrieved March 25, 2022, from <https://www2.illinois.gov/dhhs/safekids/Pages/default.aspx>

The People of the State of Illinois V. Maurice LaGrone, Jr., 100212-U, 05 (IL 2011). <https://>

www.illinoiscourts.gov/Resources/132c9a3b-b6ac-440c-a7fc-

[c549f99595d5/4100212_R23.pdf](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Resources/132c9a3b-b6ac-440c-a7fc-c549f99595d5/4100212_R23.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 reference required.</p> <p>Each question is answered with at least 100 words</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total: 10 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p style="text-align: center;">1 point</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p style="text-align: center;">5 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p style="text-align: center;">10 points</p>
<p>Paper submitted to Dropbox within 72 hours of the simulation experience.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total: 2 points</p>			<p>Paper submitted to Dropbox on time.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 points</p>

Total Points: _____