

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 600 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?

At first glance at this case, this student nurse thinks investigators did make assumptions based on social status. This student nurse thinks they used his past experiences and related them to the jurors by telling them that her children got in the way of his marijuana smoking, having sex, and not working. However, it gets suspicious when he admits to playing pranks by putting the kids in the oven. Also, how he admitted to acting like he was going to drive in the water that day. He also admitted he didn't hit the break when going toward the lake. This student nurse also thought in Maurice's case, it was weird that the jury didn't get an option for child endangerment charges like Amanda. According to an article, there are several risk factors for child maltreatment, including financial strain, parental substance abuse, and domestic violence, which are factors seen throughout Amanda and Maurice's relationship in this case (Pierce-Weeks, 2019).

- 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).

No, this student nurse does not think it was appropriate for investigators to interrogate Amanda after she received 3 different medications while admitted in an inpatient psych unit. I also think she had said yes but had previously said he didn't want too, but the more the cops brought it up, she began to think that maybe he did want to hurt the kids. This comment could have come from the influence and not what she thought happened.

- 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?

This student nurse thinks this question could go either way. On the one hand, you have Maurice saying he liked to play pranks on the children by putting them in the oven. Now, putting kids in ovens isn't typical pranks that I have ever seen a parent play on their kids, which can lead you to think he was acting maliciously. On the other hand, Maurice claims he was acting like he was going to drive in the water and didn't press the brake because he panicked; This indeed could have been the case, and he misjudged how close he was to the lake and how fast he was going.

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

This student nurse thinks there could have been racial bias that impacted Maurice's case. This student nurse also believes that other factors affected Maurice's sentence, including past experiences with the children and his social history.

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

Under the direct supervision of the court, I think she could have more kids. I think she should have continually evaluated by the court and had regularly met with the court after getting out of jail. However, since the court did not know until she had her third child, this seemed very suspicious.

- Do you think the hospital staff had the right to notify DCFS that Amanda Hamm had more children? What about the father's rights?

This student nurse thinks that DCFS should have been keeping up with her life and tracking her progress. I think Amanda could have changed from the situation but should still have regular meetings with DCFS, especially if she had more children. Since the father had no previous record, I think he should have had rights to the children. However, this was before Amanda came out about him abusing her.

- 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?

This student nurse thinks, in this case, anticipatory neglect is correct. In this case, one thing that stood out to me was the discrepancies in all the stories about the day of the accident. The stories were different when Maurice and Amanda told them the day of the accident and the day of the hearings. Amanda and Maurice claimed they couldn't get the children out of the car; however, when the police arrived on the scene, they got the children out within minutes. I think, in this case, the courts ruled for the benefit of the Hamm-Ware children. In my opinion, the children are safer while not in the custody of their parents, and visitation rights seemed like the right way to go.

Reference:

Pierce-Weeks, Jennifer & RN, SANE-A. (2019). Position Statement: Child Maltreatment:

International Association of Forensic Nurses Board of Directors, 2019. *Journal of Forensic*

Nursing, 15, 193-194. <https://doi.org/10.1097/JFN.0000000000000253>

**The Lake Assignment Rubric
N433: Clinical Learning Activity**

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned	Comments
Provided thoughtful and comprehensive answers to each question.	15		
Included a relevant scholarly source published within the last 5 years.	3		
APA format	3		
Content of assignment is 600-words	4		
Total points	25		