

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).

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

I believe that the investigators did not make assumptions based on the social status of Amanda and Maurice. It does not make sense why Maurice would park on a sloped boat ramp in the first place. It also does not make sense of how the car remains parked while Maurice and Amanda have the time to play with the children, and when Maurice put the car in reverse, the vehicle rolled forward. The car went out thirty feet into the water, which is far. I do not understand how Maurice had time to roll the window down as the car goes into the water. Also, Amanda and Maurice could have gotten the children out of the water by pulling them from the backseat to the front since Maurice got his door to open.

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).

I do not think it was suitable for investigators to question Amanda after receiving three different medications and admitted as an inpatient in the psych unit. Psychotropic drugs have adverse effects such as confusion, drowsiness, memory problems, and agitation (Ghoshal, 2019). By Amanda taking three types of medications, it is most likely that she will experience some adverse effects. It was a mistake for investigators to interrogate Amanda at this time because she may not have been in the right mental state to be answering their questions, and that can also compromise the investigation. Also, I believe it was unfair for Amanda to get questioned without a lawyer present during the interrogation.

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 believe that Maurice's testimony concerning his behavior with Amanda's children was a malicious action during the day of the accident. He testified that he cheated and slapped

Amanda. He also testified that he is not in love with her. Maurice also stated that he put one of Amanda's children in an oven as a prank, which I believe would be traumatizing to a child. Additionally, on the day of the accident, he joked that he was going to drive into the water. He also said that he did not step on the brake as the car started to roll. Maurice somewhat admitted to doing the crime. Hearing that specific statement got me to believe that Maurice was indeed guilty.

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

I do believe there was a racial bias that affected Maurice's sentence more than Amanda's. In Maurice's trial, the judge only allowed the jury two choices, whether if he is guilty or not. Maurice automatically got a life sentence after being convicted of murder. Maurice is also a young black underemployed man living with a white woman who has three children.

In Amanda's trial, the judge allowed the option for the jury to choose child endangerment charges, which they chose. Amanda only got five years of imprisonment. In my opinion, Amanda should have gotten a life sentence as well because she put her child in danger and was present at the time of the accident.

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 believe that Amanda has no right to have additional children after being convicted of child endangerment. I understand that she wants to move onto a new chapter in her life, but she still has not been making the right decisions. Amanda has a history of using drugs and alcohol. She also ended up with another man who she reported that has been abusing her. Amanda tends to be in relationships that abuse her in various ways. She also seemed to suppress the memory of the accident with her three prior children. She still claims of her and Maurice's innocence of murder.

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?

I believe that the hospital staff had the right to notify the DCFS that Amanda Hamm had more children. In 2015, there were thousands of reported cases of child abuse and neglect in the United States (Lee & Kim, 2018). To decrease and prevent this incidence, the U.S. government enforced child abuse laws to protect the children. Healthcare workers, such as registered nurses, are mandated to report these incidents; they are qualified to be aware of signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect (Lee & Kim, 2018). With what had happened with Amanda's children in the past, the hospital staff has the priority to think about her children's safety. I do not believe the father's rights come into play because the children's safety is more important.

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 am for the anticipatory neglect doctrine in this case because the children's safety is essential. Amanda and her current husband do not have a good record with the law. I do believe that the courts ruled in the benefit of the Hamm-Ware children in this case. Even though Amanda's current children do not seem to be in any harm, it was right for the state to separate them from her care due to what happened to her first three children. Amanda and her current husband are in an abusive relationship. There was evidence of substance abuse, and Amanda suppressing her first three children's death indicates that they are not fit to care for their children.

References

Ghoshal, M. (2019). *What is a psychotropic drug?*. <https://www.healthline.com/health/what-is-a-psychotropic-drug>

Lee, I. S., & Kim, K. J. (2018). Factors That Influence Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting Attitudes of Pediatric Nurses in Korea. *Journal of Forensic Nursing, 14*, 31-41.
<https://doi.org/10.1097/JFN.000000000000186>

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		