

# 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?

In my opinion, I do not think the investigators (DCFS/police) made assumptions based on the social status of Amanda and Maurice based on the podcast material presented. The police have gathered all the material needed, and there were no assumptions made throughout the podcast. When something tragic happens to children, it opens up people's eyes to other things that may have been occurring. Sudden and unexpected infant death should be comprehensively investigated to identify death's cause (Palusci et al., 2019). DCFS and the police have to put all the information into consideration and then ensure that the data is accurate.

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).

Based on the material presented, I do not think it was an issue as Amanda received three different medications on the psych unit before investigation. The investigators had already been investigating the situation and have previously questioned Amanda about

the case. It would be useful data to report the medications given to see what the impact of each would be as they have different side effects. But psychotropic medications can affect behavior, mood, thoughts, or perception. The medicine could have some impact concerning the interrogation, but I do not believe it could have immensely impacted the interview.

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?

Based on Maurice's testimony regarding his behavior with Amanda's children, I think he acted maliciously and used poor judgment during the day of the accident. I do not believe that Maurice did this without consent or some approval from Amanda. Maurice's testimony said that he did not hit the break as the car was hit the water, and he mentioned that he panicked. I cannot say what the reasonable actions for this situation could be, but I think it would be a "normal" reaction to hit the brakes. Neither Maurice nor Amanda mentioned that they tried to save the children during this incident.

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

In my opinion, there was no racial bias that impacted Maurice's sentence more than Amanda's. I believe that since she was the kids' mother, that could have affected Maurice's more substantial punishment. Also, Amanda was not the one driving. In a case such as this one, there are many things to put into consideration that could have impacted

their sentences. There was nothing in the recordings that could have indicated any racial cues towards Maurice during the podcast. I do think that the sentence should have been set up equally as they were both involved. But there was a lot to put into consideration for a situation such as this one.

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?

Answering this question is tough in regards to her past because I like to believe that people change. I do not think that Amanda should have the right to have additional children after serving her time in prison after listening to the podcast. Maurice may have been a bad influence, and that could have been the reason she went along with the plan, but Amanda did not sound like she had much emotion towards what had happened. It would be challenging to trust Amanda's ability to keep children safe after the situation. I think the hospital staff made the correct steps by contacting DCFS.

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 think that the hospital staff had the right to notify DCFS that Amanda had more children to ensure that the child is safe. I believe the correct step before that would have been to have case management come into the room to talk to Amanda. Notifying DCFS is difficult because of putting the father's rights into consideration. I think in this situation, the hospital has to put the child's safety as a priority. The father can contact DCFS

himself to try to regain custody. The father may have been unaware of Amanda's past, but he should be thankful that the hospital staff was able to ensure the child's safety.

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?

In this case, "anticipatory neglect" is something to consider with Amanda's background. I think that this is something that should have been considered when Amanda had her other two children with Mr. Ware. The "anticipatory neglect" should have been recognized for Amanda to protect her children from possible abuse or neglect. I think that the courts should have done more to ensure safety for the other two children, but it does not get mentioned if DCFS was previously involved with the Hamm-Ware children. I think that "anticipatory neglect" is something that could have been placed in court for some protection of the other two Hamm-Ware children.

## Resource

Palusci, V., Kay, A., Batra, E., Moon, R., Corey, T., Andrew, T., & Graham, M. (2019, September 01). Identifying Child Abuse Fatalities During Infancy. Retrieved July 03, 2020, from <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/144/3/e20192076>

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

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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		
<b>Total points</b>	<b>25</b>		