APPENDIX D. PILOT STUDIES

Pilot Study 1

Method

Participants. A total of 306 participants were recruited through Amazon Mechanical Turk for this experiment. Of those, 36 were excluded because they failed to answer the attention-check question, and 99 were excluded because they spent less than five minutes taking the survey (see Appendix B for an alternative analysis that includes data from these participants). The remaining 174 participants contributed data to the analysis. These participants ranged in age from 19 to 70 years (M=34.22 SD=11.56); 51.55% were female and 48.45% were male; 53.11% said they had children and 46.89% said they did not. In response to the question "What is your race," the most common answer chosen was 'Caucasian'(77.49%); followed by 'Asian/Pacific Islander' (9.03%), 'Hispanic' (5.28%); 'Black/African American' (4.69%); 'Other' (3.52%). In response to the question, "What is the highest level of education you have received?" the most common answer was 'Bachelor's Degree' (44.55%); followed by 'Some College' (23.21%); 'Associate's Degree' (10.55%); 'Graduate High School or Equivalent' (11.72%); 'Graduate Degree' (6.45%); 'Some Graduate School' (2.34%), 'Less than 12th grade' (1.17%). In response to the question, "Do you consider yourself politically conservative or liberal?" the most common answer was 'Liberal' (39.98%); followed by 'Moderate' (25.21%); 'Very Liberal' (14.30%); 'Conservative' (16.41%) and 'Very Conservative' (4.10%).

Procedure. The first pilot study differed from the final studies described in the manuscript in a couple of ways. First, the duration of time that the child was left alone in each vignette was longer. They ranged from 45 minutes for the baby in the car to 2.5 hours for the eight-year-old at Starbucks. The wording of the test question was

also different. It read, "On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being SAFEST/LOWEST RISK, and 10 being MOST DANGEROUS/HIGHEST RISK, what is the risk of some harm coming to the child? "

Results

The mean estimate of risk across all situations (on a scale of 1-10) was 7.51 (SD=2.35), and the modal estimate was 10. As predicted, respondents' estimates of risk to children differed according to why the parent left. A likelihood ratio test and an ANOVA both revealed a significant effect of moral condition on risk estimates: ($\chi^2(4)$=37.04 p<.001), ($F(4,656)$=9.49, p<.001). R^2_{GLMMc}=57.9% and R^2_{GLMMm}=22.2%. Means for the conditions were as follows: $M_{unintentional}$ = 7.04 M_{work} = 7.49; $M_{volunteer}$ = 7.64; M_{relax} = 7.55; M_{affair} = 7.84.

Pilot Study 2

Method

Participants. A total of 301 participants were recruited through Amazon Mechanical Turk for this experiment. Of those, 40 were excluded because they failed to answer the attention-check question, and 87 were excluded because they spent less than five minutes taking the survey (see Appendix B for an alternative analysis that includes data from these participants). The remaining 174 participants contributed data to the analysis. These participants ranged in age from 18 to 66 years (M=31.57 SD=11.56); 45.93% were female and 54.07% were male; 49.42% said they had children and 50.58% said they did not. In response to the question "What is your race," the most common answer chosen was 'Caucasian'(72.09%); followed by 'Black/African American' (9.30%); 'Asian/Pacific Islander' (8.14%), 'Hispanic' (5.23%); 'Other' (5.23%). In response to the question, "What is the highest level of education you have received?" the most common answer was 'Bachelor's Degree'

(34.40%); followed by 'Some College' (31.98%); 'Associate's Degree' (11.05%); 'Graduate High School or Equivalent' (12.21%); 'Graduate Degree' (10.47%). In response to the question, "Do you consider yourself politically conservative or liberal?" the most common answer was 'Liberal' (41.52%); followed by 'Moderate' (29.24%); 'Very Liberal' (16.37%); 'Conservative' (10.53%) and 'Very Conservative' (2.34%).

Procedure. In the second pilot study, we shortened the duration of time that each child was left alone in the vignettes to 15-45 minutes. The design still differed from the final experiments though, in that the wording of the test question was the same as in Pilot Study 1.

Results

The mean estimate of risk across all situations (on a scale of 1-10) was 7.29 (*SD*=2.45), and the modal estimate was 10. As predicted, respondents' estimates of risk to children differed according to why the parent left. A likelihood ratio test and an ANOVA both revealed a significant effect of moral condition on risk estimates: ($\chi^2(4)$=57.84 p<.001), ($F(4,656)$=14.99, p<.001). R^2_{GLMMc}=60.22% and R^2_{GLMMm}=26.24%. Means for the conditions were as follows: $M_{unintentional}$ = 6.54 M_{work} = 7.21; $M_{volunteer}$ = 7.54; M_{relax} = 7.39; M_{affair} = 7.80.