Title of Poster: “We’re doin’ ok”: An Investigation of Parental Account-Giving For Divorce-Related Financial Stress

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Abstract:

Among the many issues that confront families going through a divorce is a shift in socioeconomic status or a loss of financial stability during and after a divorce (Brown, Portes, & Christensen, 1989). Research has shown that parents talk about divorce-related financial stress with their children even ten years after the divorce occurs, yet there is little known about how parents communicate these issues (McManus & Donovan, 2012). The purpose of this study was to investigate the account strategies used by parents to communicate about divorce-related financial stress with their children. Transcripts of parent-child conversations were coded. Textual analysis followed by a frequency distribution revealed that justifications were used most frequently by parents followed by concessions, excuses, apologies, and refusals respectively. The findings illustrate the relevance of studying account types as a commonly used strategy by parents as all but one conversation contained at least two account types.