

# FACTSHEET: FOUND MONEY OR PROPERTY

If a person finds money and they know who it belongs to, but they don't give it back, it is seen as theft in law. If the money isn't on someone's property and there is no way of knowing who the money might belong to (and there are no obvious clues to whose it is), then you should still hand it in to the police or get a safe adult to help you.

If a person finds something (such as a wallet) and does not hand it in to the police or a lost property office near to the place it was found, (so the person who lost it can know it has been found) this is also theft.

It is also against the law to take money that has been purposely hidden. This law is called Treasure Trove. You must hand it into the police or tell them.

If the object or the money is not claimed within a period of time, usually 3 months, then the finder becomes the owner!

Sometimes things are very old, or important for history. It will be necessary for the government to decide if these things will go to a museum to be looked after or if the finder can keep them.

