



Pigeon Drop

The Pigeon Drop Scam occurs when an unsuspecting person (the pigeon) is conned into giving up money in return for a larger share of “found” money.

Usually a team of two con artists working together where one will approach a person (usually elderly) saying a large sum of cash or other valuable has been found. This almost always takes place in a large public area like a mall or parking lot. The approaching con artist will appear to be friendly, have an honest look and pleasant demeanor and will easily gain your trust.

You will be asked to examine the contents of the bag and neither of you will be able to find any indication of who owns the contents. The con artist suggests the lost money must be from a dishonest activity such as illegal drugs or a robbery and no one will claim it. Returning the money is not possible. Usually a “friend” of the con artist will happen by and you three begin to discuss the options of what to do with this money. One of the suspects suggests she/he will check with authorities to see what to do and suggests that the three of you will most likely get to split the money. They convince you to meet later after they’ve spoken to someone in authority such as a lawyer. But before they are willing to split the money, they must trust you and suggest you put up some good faith money which will be returned during your designated meeting. When you arrive for this meeting, no one is there but you. Your money as well as the “found” money and the two con artists are long gone.



Most often this scam is targeted at elderly women. These con artists know what and how to say to convince the elderly to go along with the scam.

Avoiding the Scam

- Always seek advice from a professional financial advisor before parting with your savings.
- Anytime someone tells you that you must give them money to gain more, consider it a scam and refuse to take part.
- If the situation feels uncomfortable or “too good to be true” is probably is. Walk away from these people.
- It’s not likely someone finding a huge sum of money will offer to share it with a complete stranger.
- Only trust people you know. Never trust people just because they look honest or seem nice.