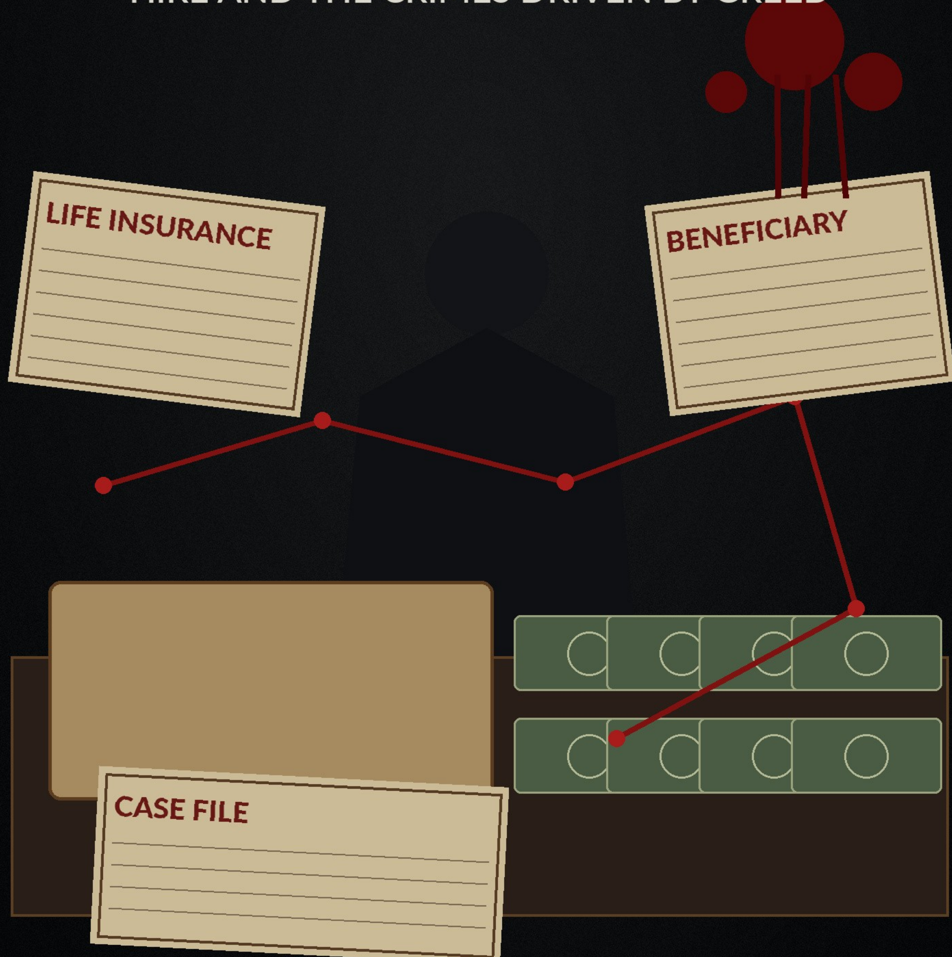
THE TRUE CRIME FILES

BOOK 14

MURDER FOR MONEY

LIFE INSURANCE, INHERITANCE, MURDER-FOR-HIRE AND THE CRIMES DRIVEN BY GREED



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This book is a work of true-crime history, criminal-justice education and social analysis. It is not legal, financial, medical, psychiatric or personal-safety advice. It does not provide instructions for committing, concealing or evading investigation of crime.

Case summaries are based on public records and established reporting. Historical claims with uncertain or disputed details are identified as such. Legal status is current to August 2026 where specifically stated.

Graphic detail has been minimized when it does not improve understanding of the investigation or evidence.

Introduction - When Death Becomes a Transaction

Money is one of the oldest motives in crime because it can transform death into a transaction. A life insurance policy can pay after a funeral. A will can transfer a house. A business partner can gain control of a company. A hired killer can be promised cash, a watch, a debt payment or a share of an estate. Yet the existence of money never proves murder by itself. Most beneficiaries are innocent, most debts end without violence, and most insurance claims are exactly what they appear to be.

The cases in this volume are about the moment when financial benefit becomes connected to criminal action by evidence: a secretly purchased policy, a false application, an unusual beneficiary change, a payment to an intermediary, a forged deed, a staged robbery, a suspicious internet search, or a money trail that begins before a victim is dead. Those links are what turn a possible motive into part of a prosecutable case.

Several chapters examine well-known historical cases; others use recent federal prosecutions because modern records show with unusual clarity how financial homicide can be reconstructed from phones, bank records, insurance files and digital communication. The book also examines the legal idea often called the slayer rule, under which a person generally cannot profit from intentionally killing the person whose death creates the benefit.

This is a true-crime history and criminal-justice study, not a guide to harming anyone or defeating an investigation. Graphic detail is minimized. Where a historical legend exceeds the evidence, the distinction is stated. Legal status is described as accurately as possible through August 2026.

Contents

Chapter 1 - The Price Tag No One Sees

A homicide investigation begins with death, but motive often lives elsewhere. Financial motive can sit in a filing cabinet, an insurance portal, a trust document or a bank account that appears routine until investigators place it beside the timeline. The crucial question is not merely who received money after the death. It is who expected to receive it, what they knew, and what they did before the death occurred.

Greed is an imprecise word. Some offenders seek a large inheritance; others are trying to escape debt, hide embezzlement, collect a modest policy or gain sole control of property. In murder-for-hire cases, the person ordering the killing and the person carrying it out can have different motives. One may want an estate while the other wants a fee.

For investigators, financial motive is most useful when it produces testable facts. A policy has an application date. A payment has an account number. A beneficiary change has a signature. A burner phone has activation data. Money turns motive into a paper trail - and paper trails can be compared with physical and digital evidence.