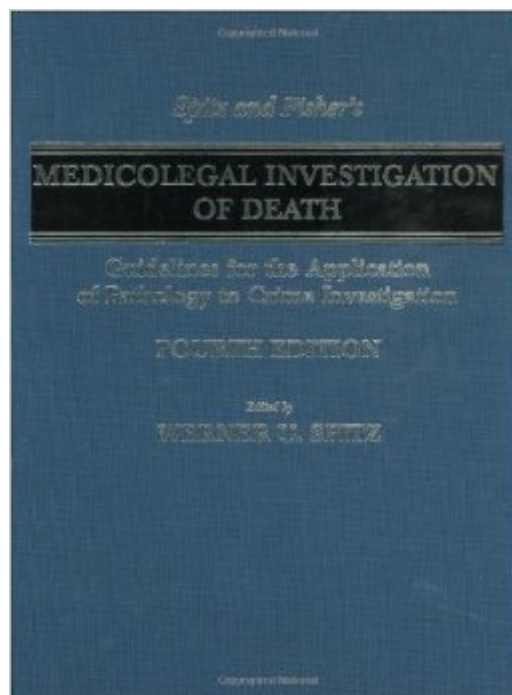


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# Spitz And Fisher's Medicolegal Investigation Of Death: Guidelines For The Application Of Pathology To Crime Investigation



## Synopsis

MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATION OF DEATH, known as the 'bible' of forensic pathology to pathologists around the world, has withstood the test of time, recently celebrating its twentieth year of publication. Totally rewritten and updated throughout, the text is oriented to forensic pathologists, criminal investigators, and attorneys. It embraces all aspects of the pathology of trauma as it is witnessed daily by law enforcement officers, interpreted by pathologists of varying experience and expertise in forensic pathology, and used by lawyers involved in the prosecution and defense in criminal cases as well as those engaged in civil litigation. This authoritative and complete textbook is written by some of the most respected experts in the United States. The book continues to use a simple and practical approach in keeping with the tradition established by the previous editions. It avoids technical terminology, where possible, in compliance with the aim of addressing not only physicians but all parties with an interest in the study of injury patterns and the practice of pathology as it relates to the law. A large amount of new information and abundant material not previously covered are included in this volume. The many new illustrations, diagrams and sketches showing patterns and mechanisms of injury as well as an inclusive index render this book unique.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

At first I was hesitant to spend \$120 on a reference book I couldn't manually look through (aside from the pages available for viewing through ), but I took a chance. As a forensic scientist who is

new to death investigation, this reference is well worth the money. From front to back, this book is packed with well-written, thorough discussions of the different causes and manners of death. The written information, complimented by hundreds of photos and illustrations, is presented in terms that are comprehensible even to those without a background in forensic pathology or medicine. For the amount and quality of information packed into this large volume, \$120 is actually a steal. I absolutely recommend this reference for anyone who has a role in death investigation. Students of forensic science, if you're too broke to buy this, put it on your wish list and hope you get it as a graduation gift. It's a must-have that is worth the three-digit price tag.

I have to add my 5 stars for this informative resource. It was my textbook for two courses. However, even after my classes ended I found myself referring back to the loads of information provided within the pages of this book. It is extremely comprehensive and well worth the investment.\*If you are not a student required to purchase a newer edition, I recommend looking at an earlier edition - I know that you'll get the same great information, just at a much discounted price.

This is the Bible of Forensic Medicine and Investigation. Unfortunately, most Coroners and Death Investigators have never read it. Explaining, in part, the near incompetence that permeates death investigations in the USA. This text should be MANDATORY reading for any death or crime scene investigator.

I will preface this review by saying that I reluctantly had to purchase the book for a class years ago, but quickly learned that this book is simply AMAZING. It includes simple explanations for everything under the realm of pathology, with real life case examples and photographs. I repeat: this reference book has very detailed explanations of death, as well as both black & white and color photos of actual decedents (at the scene as they were found and during autopsy) and sometimes very bloody, gruesome crime scenes. This book is not for kids, or those with weak dispositions. I've recently started reading it from cover to cover, purely for the information that I can use as a crime scene investigator. It's also acts as my coffee table book. Morbid for anyone outside the world of forensics, I know.

The content of this book is outstanding. The text is comprehensive and easy to understand. The organization of the book is logical and makes it easy to use. If this is the only forensic pathology book you study, your time will not have been wasted. However, much of the content could stand to

be updated with references to more modern literature. Reading the text leaves me wondering, is this true just because you said it's true? Or do other authors agree? My own experiences at autopsy have consistently validated my readings from this book but for those who don't actually perform forensic autopsies (attorneys, forensic scientists, etc.) the scholarly nature of this book may seem questionable. Don't get me wrong, the book does refer to various sources, I just feel that there could be more of them and a little more up to date. But most importantly it seems inexcusable that this book consistently uses black and white photographs (many are "classic" images from the 1950s and 1960s). While they are still valid, color images are now the standard. This book desperately needs a new edition with more extensive references to the forensic and pathology journals as well as color images throughout. Dolinak's book surpasses Spitz and Fisher in this regard. But the text in Dolinak is not quite as comprehensive as this book.

I am a 37 year veteran of law enforcement and have been involved in everything from basic patrol, investigations, supervision and executive administration. Dr. Spitz's text is an incredible resource for those involved in the investigation of injuries sustained by the human body, whether they be accidental or homicidal. There is an incredible amount of written detail contained within the book, supported by explanations about the mechanism of injury, inclusive of photographs and diagrams. This book should be in the library of every individual who desires to be versed on the mechanics of human injury. Highly recommended.

I watch many of the ER and CSI type of shows on TV. [Possibly too many?] I'm impressed by how much info they can gather just by a close examination of the physical wounds. I saw this book and thought it might make good reading in the cold winter months. So far it has, including the background on how Medical Examiners evolved and came to be. I like the book, although my kids think I'm very strange. [I prefer eccentric.] I only gave it 4 stars because the pictures are black and white. They could increase the educational value of the book by at least 100% if they would use color pictures.

A "Must have" for anyone in the medicolegal field of studies. Purchased mine as a reference/self study book. Although aimed at the professionals in the field, it is written in such a way anyone can grasp a lot of information. Curiosity (I am a self taught/trial and error student) and the need to keep knowing more, will push you to search deeper and deeper.

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