

(ii) All defenses to a petition for forfeiture shall be made by answer.

(5) (i) An answer shall:

1. Comply with the Maryland Rules as to form and contents;

2. Be divided into numbered paragraphs, each containing a separate and distinctive averment; and

3. Respond to each material allegation contained in the petition, specifically admitting, denying, or explaining the facts alleged unless the respondent is without knowledge, or an admission or explanation would tend to incriminate him, in either of which events he shall so state, and such statement shall operate as a denial.

(ii) Every allegation in the petition not denied in the answer shall be deemed admitted, except as to persons unknown.

(iii) New or affirmative matter alleged in the answer shall be deemed denied or avoided by the petitioner without the need of any replication, unless the court shall order otherwise.

(6) (i) When all of the registered owners or secured parties or both have answered or are in default, the case shall be assigned for trial.

(ii) The court shall set the case for trial not less than 30 nor more than 60 days thereafter.

(i) If the owner of the seized motor vehicle desires to obtain possession thereof before a petition for forfeiture is filed or before the hearing on the petition filed against the vehicle, the clerk of the court where the criminal proceeding or the petition for forfeiture is filed shall have an appraisal made by the sheriff of the county or city in which the court is located. The sheriff shall promptly inspect and render an appraisal of the value of the vehicle and return the appraisal, in writing, under oath, to the clerk of the court in which the proceedings are pending. Upon the filing of the appraisal, the owner may give bond payable to the State of Maryland, in an amount equal to the appraised value of the vehicle plus court costs which may accrue, with security to be approved by the clerk, and conditioned for performance on the final judgment of the court after the hearing on the petition, the court directs that the motor vehicle or such interest or equity as the owner may have therein, be forfeited, judgment may thereupon be entered against the obligors on the bond for the penalty thereof, without further or other proceeding, to be discharged by the payment of