

(ii) In Baltimore City within 7 days of the filing of the petition for forfeiture, notice shall be published in one or more of the daily newspapers published in the city.

(iii) The notice shall state the substance and object of the forfeiture petition and shall state that any person claiming an interest in the seized motor vehicle shall file a defense to the petition within 15 days of the date of the notice.

(4) (i) Any defense to the petition shall be filed within 15 days after publication of the notice called for in paragraph (3) of this subsection.

(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.

(III) IF A PARTY FAILS TO FILE A TIMELY ANSWER TO THE PETITION, THE COURT MAY ORDER FORFEITURE OF THE PROPERTY INTEREST OF THAT PARTY IN THE VEHICLE WITHOUT A HEARING.