

VETOES

known that the motor vehicle was being or was to be used in violation of this subtitle; and

(vi) A prayer that the motor vehicle be forfeited to the State of Maryland.

(VII) AN OATH OR AFFIRMATION BY THE STATE'S ATTORNEY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE PETITION ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY'S KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF.

(3) (i) Within 7 days of the filing of the petition for forfeiture, notice of the seizure and forfeiture proceeding shall be made by publication in one or more newspapers published in the county in which the action is brought or, if there is no paper published in the county, in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the county.

(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.