

199—7.9(17A,476) Pleadings and answers.

7.9(1) Pleadings. Pleadings may be required by statute, rule, or order.

7.9(2) Answers.

a. Unless otherwise ordered by the board or presiding officer, answers to complaints, petitions, applications, or other pleadings shall be filed with the board within 20 days after the day on which the pleading being answered was served upon the respondent or other party. However, when a statute or other provision of law requires the board to issue a decision in the case in six months or less, the answer shall be filed with the board within 10 days of service of the pleading being answered, unless otherwise ordered by the board or presiding officer.

b. Each answer must specifically admit, deny, or otherwise answer all material allegations of the pleadings and also briefly set forth the affirmative grounds relied upon to support each answer.

c. Any party who deems the complaint, petition, application, or other pleading insufficient to show a breach of legal duty or grounds for relief may move to dismiss instead of, or in addition to, answering.

d. A party may apply for a more definitive and detailed statement instead of, or in addition to, answering, if appropriate.

e. An answer shall substantially comply with the form prescribed in 199—subrule 2.2(8).

7.9(3) Amendments to pleadings. Amendments to pleadings may be allowed upon proper motion at any time during the pendency of the proceeding upon such terms as are just and reasonable.