

Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure

Rule 8.02. Defenses; Form of Denials

A party shall state in short and plain terms his or her defenses to each claim asserted and shall admit or deny the averments upon which the adverse party relies. If the party is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of an averment, he or she shall so state and this will have the effect of a denial. Denials shall fairly meet the substance of the averments denied. When a pleader intends in good faith to deny only a part or a qualification of an averment, the pleader shall specify so much of it as is true and material and shall deny only the remainder. Unless the pleader intends in good faith to controvert all the averments of the preceding pleading, the pleader may make denials as specific denials of designated averments or paragraphs, or may generally deny all the averments except such designated averments or paragraphs as he or she expressly admits; but, when the pleader does so intend to controvert all its averments, he or she may do so by general denial subject to the obligations set forth in Rule 11.