

Last amended by Order dated March 1, 2011; effective May 2, 2011.

RULES OF SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA
PART THREE
PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE IN CIVIL ACTIONS

Rule 3:18. General Provisions as to Pleadings.

(a) *Pleadings.* All motions in writing, including a motion for a bill of particulars and a motion to dismiss, whether filed in paper document format or as electronic or digitally imaged filings, are pleadings.

(b) *Allegation of negligence.* An allegation of negligence or contributory negligence is sufficient without specifying the particulars of the negligence.

(c) *Contributory negligence as a defense.* Contributory negligence shall not constitute a defense unless pleaded or shown by the plaintiff's evidence.

(d) *Pleading the statute of limitations.* An allegation that an action is barred by the statute of limitations is sufficient without specifying the particular statute relied on.

(e) *Separate or combined filings papers.* Answers, counterclaims, cross-claims, pleas, demurrers, affirmative defenses and motions may all be included in the same filing paper if they are separately identified in both the caption and the body of the filing.