

WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §56-4-49

§56-4-49. Failure to plead, answer or demur; rule to plead; conditional judgment or decree nisi; judgment or decree by default; order for inquiry of damages.

If a defendant, who appears, fail to plead, answer or demur to the declaration or bill, a rule may be given him to plead. If he fail to appear at the rule day at which the process against him is returned executed, or when it is returnable to a term, at the first rule day after it is so returned, the plaintiff, if he has filed his declaration or bill, may have a conditional judgment or decree nisi as to such defendant. No service of such decree nisi or conditional judgment shall be necessary. But at the next rule day after the same is entered, if the defendant continue in default, or at the expiration of any rule upon him with which he fails to comply, if the case be in equity, the bill shall be entered as taken for confessed as to him and if it be at law, judgment shall be entered against him with an order for the damages to be inquired into, when such inquiry is proper.