RCW 4.36.130 Answer in justification and mitigation. In an action mentioned in RCW  $4.36.\overline{1}20$ , the defendant may, in his or her answer, allege both the truth of the matter charged as defamatory, and any mitigating circumstances to reduce the amount of damages; and whether he or she proves the justification or not, he or she may give in evidence the mitigating circumstances. [2011 c 336 § 106; Code 1881 § 100; 1877 p 22 § 100; 1854 p 143 § 62; RRS § 293.]