

DECISION

Dispute Codes:

MNSD, FF

Introduction

This hearing was scheduled in response to the tenant's Application for Dispute Resolution, in which the tenant has made application for a monetary Order for return of the security deposit and to recover the filing fee from the landlord for the cost of this Application for Dispute Resolution.

Both parties were present at the hearing. At the start of the hearing I introduced myself and the participants. The hearing process was explained, evidence was reviewed and the parties were provided with an opportunity to ask questions about the hearing process. They were provided with the opportunity to submit documentary evidence prior to this hearing, all of which has been reviewed, to present affirmed oral testimony and to make submissions during the hearing.

Issue(s) to be Decided

Is the tenant entitled to return of the deposit paid?

Is the tenant entitled to filing fee costs?

Background and Evidence

The tenancy commenced in February 2009 and terminated on November 30, 2009 as the result of one month's written notice by the tenant. The tenant paid a security deposit of \$275.00 during the last week of January 2009.

On November 30, 2009 the tenant provided the landlord with a written forwarding address, personally given to the landlord. The landlord confirmed receipt of the address on this date.. The tenant testified that the deposit has not been returned and that he had verbally agreed to a \$25.00 deduction for stove cleaning required.

The tenant was not provided with inspection reports and did not sign a report at the end of the tenancy.

Analysis

Section 38(1) of the Act determines that the landlord must, within 15 days after the later of the date the tenancy ends and the date the landlord received the tenant's forwarding address in writing, repay the deposit or make an application for dispute resolution claiming against the deposit. If the landlord does not make a claim against the deposit paid, section 38(6) of the Act determines that a landlord must pay the tenant double the amount of security deposit.

The amount of deposit owed to a tenant is also contingent on any dispute related to damages and the completion of move-in and move-out condition inspections. In this case the tenant has agreed to a \$25.00 deduction for stove cleaning.

In the absence of a written agreement allowing deductions from the deposit paid I find, pursuant to section 38(6) of the Act, that the tenant is entitled to return of double the \$275.00 deposit paid to the landlord; less \$25.00.

I find that the tenant's application has merit, and I find that the tenant is entitled to recover the filing fee from the landlord for the cost of this Application for Dispute Resolution.

Conclusion

I find that the tenant has established a monetary claim, in the amount of \$575.00, which is comprised of double the deposit paid, less \$25.00 for stove cleaning, plus \$50.00 in compensation for the filing fee paid by the tenant for this Application for Dispute Resolution.

Based on these determinations I grant the tenant a monetary Order for **\$575.00**. In the event that the landlord does not comply with this Order, it may be served on the landlord, filed with the Province of British Columbia Small Claims Court and enforced as an Order of that Court.

This decision is made on authority delegated to me by the Director of the Residential Tenancy Branch under Section 9.1(1) of the *Residential Tenancy Act*.

Dated: May 25, 2010.

Dispute Resolution Officer