



# Dispute Resolution Services

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Residential Tenancy Branch  
Office of Housing and Construction Standards

## **DECISION**

Dispute Codes      MNSD, FF

### Introduction

This conference call hearing was convened in response to the tenant's application for the return of the security deposit, and to recover the filing fees associated with this application.

The tenant participated in the hearing and provided affirmed testimony. He testified that he served the Notice of a Dispute Resolution Hearing to the landlord by way of registered mail sent on March 1, 2012, and provided a Canada Post tracking number. The landlord did not participate and the hearing proceeded in the landlord's absence.

### Issue(s) to be Decided

Is the tenant entitled to the return of the security deposit as claimed?

Is the tenant entitled to recover the filing fee?

### Background and Evidence

The rental unit consists of a single detached home. Pursuant to a written agreement, the fixed term tenancy started on January 1, 2011 and ended December 31, 2011. The rent was \$2800.00 per month and the tenant paid a security deposit of \$2800.00.

The tenant testified that at the end of the tenancy the tenant provided the landlord with written notice of a forwarding address on January 4 and 18, 2012. The tenant provided

a copy of the January 18 notice as part of his documentary evidence. The tenant stated that the landlord has not responded to multiple messages and attempts concerning returning the keys, the garage opener, and the security deposit.

The tenant applied for the return of double the amount of the security deposit totalling \$5600.00, and confirmed that the specified amount of \$4600.00 on his application for dispute resolution is a mathematical error.

### Analysis

I accept the tenant's undisputed testimony that he served the landlord with the Notice of Dispute Resolution in a proper manner pursuant to section 89 of the *Residential Tenancy Act*. I find that the landlord knew, or ought to have had knowledge of the date scheduled for this hearing.

Section 38(1) of the *Residential Tenancy Act* provides that the landlord must return the security deposit or apply for dispute resolution within 15 days after the later of the end of the tenancy and the date the landlord received the tenant's forwarding address in writing.

Section 38(6) of the *Residential Tenancy Act* provides in part that if a landlord does not comply with his statutory obligation to return the security deposit within 15 days, the landlord must pay the tenant double the amount of the deposit.

In this matter the landlord received the tenants' forwarding address, but the security deposit was not returned and the landlord did not apply for dispute resolution as required by statute. Therefore the tenant is entitled to the return of double the amount of the security deposit.

Conclusion

The tenant established a claim of \$5600.00. Since he was successful, he is entitled to recover the filing fee and pursuant to Section 67 of the Act, I grant the tenant a monetary order for the sum of \$5650.00

This Order may be registered in the 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 03, 2012.

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Residential Tenancy Branch