



# Dispute Resolution Services

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Residential Tenancy Branch  
Office of Housing and Construction Standards

## DECISION

Dispute Codes: MNSD

### Introduction

A hearing was conducted by conference call in the presence of both parties. On the basis of the solemnly affirmed evidence presented at that hearing, a decision has been reached. All of the evidence was carefully considered.

Both parties were given a full opportunity to present evidence and make submissions. Neither party requested an adjournment or a Summons to Testify. Prior to concluding the hearing both parties acknowledged they had presented all of the relevant evidence that they wished to present.

I find that the Application for Dispute Resolution/Notice of Hearing was sufficiently served on the Landlord by mailing, by registered mail to where the respondent resides on April 15, 2013. With respect to each of the applicant's claims I find as follows:

### Issues to be Decided

The issues to be decided are as follows:

- a. Whether the tenant is entitled to the return of double the security deposit/pet deposit?
- b. Whether the tenant is entitled to recover the cost of the filing fee?

### Background and Evidence:

The tenancy began on March 1, 2012. The rent is \$1225 per month payable on first day of each month. The tenant(s) paid a security deposit of \$600 at the start of the tenancy. The tenancy ended on February 28, 2013.

The tenant(s) provided the landlord with his/her their forwarding address in writing on March 7, 2013. The landlord returned \$327.09 of the security deposit by mailing a

cheque to the Tenant on April 3, 2013 which was received by her on April 8, 2013. The landlord testified the tenant told him the forwarding address was a temporary address. He emailed the tenant on March 19, 2013 to confirm the address. The tenant confirmed the address by email on March 21, 2013. The landlord testified he was out of town and thus was not able to mail the cheque until early April.

#### Law

The Residential Tenancy Act provides that a landlord must return the security deposit plus interest to the tenants within 15 days of the later of the date the tenancy ends or the date the landlord receives the tenants forwarding address in writing unless the parties have agreed in writing that the landlord can retain the security deposit, the landlord already has a monetary order against the tenants or the landlord files an Application for Dispute Resolution within that 15 day period. It further provides that if the landlord fails to do this the tenant is entitled to an order for double the security deposit.

#### Analysis

The tenants paid a security deposit of \$600 at the start of the tenancy. I determined the tenancy ended on February 28, 2013. I further determined the tenants provided the landlord with their forwarding address in writing on March 7, 2013. The parties have not agreed in writing that the landlord can retain the security deposit. The landlord does not have a monetary order against the tenants and the landlord failed to file an Application for Dispute Resolution within the 15 days from the later of the end of tenancy or the date the landlord receives the tenants' forwarding address in writing. As a result I determined the tenants have established a claim against the landlord for double the security deposit less what was paid ( $\$600 \times 2 = \$1200 - \$327.09 = \$872.91$ ..

#### Monetary Order and Cost of Filing fee

**I ordered the landlord(s) to pay to the tenant the sum of \$872.91 plus the sum of \$50 in respect of the filing fee for a total of \$922.91.**

It is further Ordered that this sum be paid forthwith. The applicant is given a formal Order in the above terms and the respondent must be served with a copy of this Order as soon as possible.

Should the respondent fail to comply with this Order, the Order may be filed in the Small Claims division of the Provincial 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: June 11, 2013

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Residential Tenancy Branch