



Dispute Resolution Services

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Residential Tenancy Branch
Office of Housing and Construction Standards

A matter regarding KAISIAH INVESTMENT CORPORATION
and [tenant name suppressed to protect privacy]

DECISION

Dispute Codes:

MNSD, FF

Introduction

This Dispute Resolution hearing was convened to deal with an Application by the tenant seeking an order for the return of the security deposit retained by the landlord.

Despite being served by registered mail sent on June 12, 2014, as confirmed by the Canada Post tracking number, the respondent landlord did not appear.

Issue(s) to be Decided

Is the tenant entitled to a refund of the security deposit under section 38 of the Act?

Background and Evidence

The tenancy began in September 2013. The rent was \$1,635.00 per month and a security deposit of \$817.00 was paid. Copies of receipts, copies of communications, witness statements and a copy of the tenancy agreement were in evidence. The tenancy ended on April 30, 2014 and the written forwarding addresses of all three co-tenants were submitted to the landlord during April 2014.

. The tenant testified that the landlord failed to return the deposit within 15 days after the tenancy ended and the written forwarding address given and the tenant is claiming a refund of double the security deposit.

Analysis

Section 38 of the Act provides that a security deposit or pet damage deposit must be refunded to the tenant within 15 days after the end of the tenancy and the date that the forwarding address was received, whichever is later.

In the alternative, if the landlord wants to retain the deposit to satisfy a debt or damages, according to the Act, the landlord is required to make a claim against a security deposit by filing an application for Dispute Resolution within 15 days after the

end of the tenancy and the date that the forwarding address was received, whichever is later.

I accept the tenant's testimony and evidence verifying that the written forwarding address was received by the landlord in April 2014. I find that the security deposit was not returned within the 15-day deadline under the Act.

Based on the evidence and the testimony, I find that at the end of the tenancy the tenant did not give the landlord written permission to keep the deposit, nor did the landlord subsequently make an application seeking an order to keep the deposit within the 15-day deadline to do so.

Section 38(6) provides that, if a landlord does not comply with the Act by refunding the deposit or making application to retain it within 15 days, the landlord may not make a claim against the security deposit, and must pay the tenant double the amount of the security deposit.

In the matter before me, I find that under section 38, this tenant is entitled to be paid double the security deposit of \$817.00 that was wrongfully retained by the landlord, totalling \$1,634.00, plus the \$50.00 cost of filing the dispute resolution application.

I hereby issue a monetary order for \$1,684.00 in favour of the tenant. This order must be served on the Respondent and may be filed in the Provincial Court (Small Claims) and enforced as an order of that Court.

Conclusion

The tenant is successful in her application and is awarded a monetary order for a refund of double the security deposit.

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: October 08, 2014

Residential Tenancy Branch

