



Dispute Resolution Services

Page: 1

Residential Tenancy Branch
Office of Housing and Construction Standards

DECISION

Dispute Codes MNSD, FF

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 landlord resides on March 18, 2015. With respect to each of the applicant's claims I find as follows:

Issue(s) 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 parties entered into a written tenancy agreement that provided that the tenancy would start on June 1, 2014 with rent as \$975 per month payable in advance on first day of each month. The tenant(s) paid a security deposit of \$462.50 and the pet damage deposit in the sum of \$462.50 for a total of \$975.

The tenancy ended on January 31, 2015. The tenant(s) provided the landlord with his/her their forwarding address in writing on February 14, 2015.

The landlord stated she filed a claim against the tenant. However, the tenant testified she was never served with a copy of the Landlord's Application for Dispute Resolution. The landlord could not advise the file number of her claim. I did a name search of the landlord's name at the Residential Tenancy Branch Registry and there is no indication that the landlord filed an Application for Dispute Resolution against the tenant. I determined the landlord did not file a claim against the tenant to keep the security deposit and pet damage deposit.

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 \$462.50 and a pet damage deposit of \$462.50 for a total of \$975. I determined the tenancy ended on January 31, 2015. I further determined the tenants provided the landlord with their forwarding address in writing on February 14, 2015. 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 in the sum of \$1950 for double the security deposit and pet damage deposit ($\$975 \times 2 = \1950). .

The Application for Dispute Resolution for Dispute Resolution filed by the tenant indicates she was claiming the return of the deposit. At the hearing the tenant stated that she was not prepared to waive the doubling of the deposits.

Monetary Order and Cost of Filing fee

I ordered the landlord(s) to pay to the tenant the sum of \$1950 plus the sum of \$50 in respect of the filing fee for a total of \$2000.

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: August 21, 2015

Residential Tenancy Branch

