



# Dispute Resolution Services

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Residential Tenancy Branch  
Office of Housing and Construction Standards

## **DECISION**

Dispute Codes      OPR, MNR

### Introduction

This matter proceeded by way of an *ex parte* Direct Request Proceeding, pursuant to section 55(4) of the *Residential Tenancy Act* (the “*Act*”), and dealt with an Application for Dispute Resolution by the landlord for an Order of Possession based on unpaid rent and a Monetary Order.

The landlord submitted two signed Proofs of Service of the Notices of Direct Request Proceeding which declare that on December 9, 2016, the landlord sent the tenants the Notices of Direct Request Proceeding by registered mail to the rental unit. The landlord provided a copy of the Canada Post Customer Receipt containing the Tracking Numbers to confirm these mailings. Based on the written submissions of the landlord and in accordance with sections 89 and 90 of the *Act*, I find that the tenants have been deemed served with the Direct Request Proceeding documents on December 14, 2016, the fifth day after their registered mailing.

### Issue(s) to be Decided

Is the landlord entitled to an Order of Possession for unpaid rent pursuant to sections 46 and 55 of the *Act*?

Is the landlord entitled to monetary compensation for unpaid rent pursuant to section 67 of the *Act*?

### Background and Evidence

The landlord submitted the following evidentiary material:

- A copy of the Proofs of Service of the Notices of Direct Request Proceeding served to the tenants;
- A copy of a residential tenancy agreement which was signed by the landlord and the tenants on July 12, 2015, indicating a monthly rent of \$1,350.00, due on the first day of the month for a tenancy commencing on July 15, 2015;

- A copy of a receipt dated November 22, 2016, for \$550.00 of rent, paid by the tenants, which the landlord has indicated is “for use and occupancy only”;
- Two copies of utility bills from the City of Port Alberni for the rental unit dated May 3, 2016 for \$190.93 and September 8, 2016 for 543.77 totaling \$734.70;
- A copy of a demand letter from the landlord to the tenants, dated November 12, 2016, requesting payment of utilities;
- A Monetary Order Worksheet showing the rent owing and paid during the relevant portion of this tenancy; and
- A copy of a 10 Day Notice to End Tenancy for Unpaid Rent (the 10 Day Notice) dated November 16, 2016, and personally served to the tenants on November 16, 2016, with a stated effective vacancy date of December 1, 2016, for \$1,600.00 in unpaid rent and \$570.96 in unpaid utilities.

Witnessed documentary evidence filed by the landlord indicates that the 10 Day Notice was personally served to the tenants at 1:27 pm on November 16, 2016. The landlord had a witness sign the Proof of Service Notice to End Tenancy to confirm personal service. The 10 Day Notice states that the tenants had five days from the date of service to pay the rent in full or apply for Dispute Resolution or the tenancy would end.

#### Analysis

I have reviewed all documentary evidence and in accordance with section 88 of the *Act*, I find that the tenants were duly served with the 10 Day Notice on November 16, 2016.

I find that the tenants were obligated to pay the monthly rent in the amount of \$1,350.00, as per the tenancy agreement.

I accept the evidence before me that the tenants have failed to pay the rent owed in full within the 5 days granted under section 46(4) of the *Act* and did not dispute the 10 Day Notice within that 5 day period.

Based on the foregoing, I find that the tenants are conclusively presumed under section 46(5) of the *Act* to have accepted that the tenancy ended on the effective date of the 10 Day Notice, December 1, 2016.

Section 46 (6) of the *Act* allows the landlord to treat the unpaid utilities as unpaid rent, 30 days after the tenant is given a written demand for them. I find that the date of the demand letter is less than 30 days from the time that the 10 Day Notice was issued to

the tenants and that not enough time has passed to allow the landlord to treat the unpaid utilities as unpaid rent. For this reason the monetary portion of the landlord's application concerning unpaid utilities is dismissed, with leave to reapply.

Therefore, I find that the landlord is entitled to an Order of Possession and a Monetary Order in the amount of \$1,050.00, the amount claimed by the landlord, for unpaid rent owing for October 2016 and November 2016 as of November 22, 2016.

#### Conclusion

I grant an Order of Possession to the landlord effective **two days after service of this Order** on the tenants. Should the tenants fail to comply with this Order, this Order may be filed and enforced as an Order of the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

Pursuant to section 67 of the *Act*, I find that the landlord is entitled to a Monetary Order in the amount of \$1,050.00 for rent owed for October 2016 and November 2016. The landlord is provided with this Order in the above terms and the tenants must be served with **this Order** as soon as possible. Should the tenants fail to comply with this Order, this Order may be filed in the Small Claims Division of the Provincial Court and enforced as an Order of that Court.

The portion of the landlord's monetary claim concerning unpaid utilities is dismissed with leave to reapply.

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: December 15, 2016

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Residential Tenancy Branch