



Dispute Resolution Services

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Residential Tenancy Branch
Office of Housing and Construction Standards

DECISION

Dispute Codes OPRM-DR

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 a signed Proof of Service of the Notice of Direct Request Proceeding which declares that on August 10, 2018, the landlord served the tenant with the Notice of Direct Request Proceeding by way attaching a copy to a door or other conspicuous place at the address at which the tenant resides. The Proof of Service form establishes that the service was witnessed by “KB” and a signature for “KB” is included on the form.

Based on the written submissions of the landlord, and in accordance with sections 89 and 90 of the *Act*, I find that the tenant has been deemed served with the Direct Request Proceeding documents on August 13, 2018, three days after their posting.

The landlord submitted a second signed Proof of Service of the Notice of Direct Request Proceeding which asserts that on August 13, 2018, the landlord served the tenant with the Notice of Direct Request Proceeding via registered mail. The landlord provided a copy of a Canada Post transaction receipt containing the Tracking Number associated with the mailed item.

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 a residential tenancy agreement which was signed by the landlord and the tenant, indicating a monthly rent of \$1,300.00, due on the first day of each month for a tenancy commencing on April 21, 2018;
- A Direct Request Worksheet showing the rent owing during the portion of this tenancy in question, on which the landlord establishes that there is unpaid rent owed in the amount of \$3,900.00, due by August 01, 2018. The landlord indicates that unpaid rent in the amount of \$1,300.00 is owed for each of June 2018, July 2018, and August 2018;
- A copy of a 10 Day Notice to End Tenancy for Unpaid Rent (the Notice) dated June 04, 2018, which the landlord states was served to the tenant on June 04, 2018, for \$1,300.00 in unpaid rent due on June 01, 2018, with a stated effective vacancy date of June 14, 2018; and
- A copy of the Proof of Service of the Notice showing that the landlord's agent served the Notice to the tenant by way of leaving a copy in the mailbox or mail slot at the tenant's residence on June 04, 2018. The Proof of Service form establishes that the service of the Notice was witnessed and a name and signature for the witness are included on the form.

The Notice restates section 46(4) of the *Act* which provides that the tenant had five days to pay the rent in full or apply for Dispute Resolution or the tenancy would end on the effective date of the Notice. The tenant did not apply to dispute the Notice within five days from the date of service and the landlord alleged that the tenant did not pay the rental arrears.

Analysis

I have reviewed all documentary evidence provided by the landlord. Section 90 of the *Act* provides that because the Notice was served by way of leaving a copy in the mail box or mail slot at the tenant's residence, the tenant is deemed to have received the Notice three days after it was left in the mail box or mail slot. In accordance with sections 88 and 90 of the *Act*, I find that the tenant is deemed to have received the Notice on June 07, 2018, three days after it was left in the mail box or mail slot

Direct Request proceedings are *ex parte* proceedings. In an *ex parte* proceeding, the opposing party is not invited to participate in the hearing or make any submissions. As there is no ability for the tenants to participate, there is a much higher burden placed on landlords in these types of proceedings than in a participatory hearing. This higher

burden protects the procedural rights of the excluded party and ensures that the natural justice requirements of the Residential Tenancy Branch are satisfied.

In this type of matter, the landlord must prove they served the tenant with the Notice of Direct Request Proceeding, the Notice, and all related documents with respect to the Direct Request process, in accordance with the Act and Policy Guidelines. In an ex parte Direct Request Proceeding, the onus is on the landlord to ensure that all submitted evidentiary material is in accordance with the prescribed criteria and does not lend itself to ambiguity or give rise to issues that may need further clarification beyond the purview of a Direct Request Proceeding. If the landlord cannot establish that all documents meet the standard necessary to proceed via the Direct Request Proceeding, the application may be found to have deficiencies that necessitate a participatory hearing, or, in the alternative, the application may be dismissed.

I have reviewed all documentary evidence provided by the landlord. Section 89 of the *Act* provides the approved methods by which an application for dispute resolution can be served. Section 89 provides, in part, as follows:

Special rules for certain documents

89 (1) An application for dispute resolution or a decision of the director to proceed with a review under Division 2 of Part 5, when required to be given to one party by another, must be given in one of the following ways:

- (a) by leaving a copy with the person;
- (b) if the person is a landlord, by leaving a copy with an agent of the landlord;
- (c) by sending a copy by registered mail to the address at which the person resides or, if the person is a landlord, to the address at which the person carries on business as a landlord;
- (d) if the person is a tenant, by sending a copy by registered mail to a forwarding address provided by the tenant;
- (e) as ordered by the director under section 71 (1) [*director's orders: delivery and service of documents*].

(2) An application by a landlord under section 55 [*order of possession for the landlord*], 56 [*application for order ending tenancy early*] or 56.1 [*order of possession: tenancy frustrated*] must be given to the tenant in one of the following ways:

- (a) by leaving a copy with the tenant;
- (b) by sending a copy by registered mail to the address at which the tenant resides;
- (c) by leaving a copy at the tenant's residence with an adult who apparently resides with the tenant;

(d) by attaching a copy to a door or other conspicuous place at the address at which the tenant resides;

(e) as ordered by the director under section 71 (1) [*director's orders: delivery and service of documents*].

In the Direct Request process, the landlord must prove they served the tenant with the Notice of Direct Request proceeding with all the required inclusions as indicated on the Notice as per subsections 89(1) and (2) of the *Act*, which permit service “by sending a copy by registered mail to the address at which the person resides or, if the person is a landlord, to the address at which the person carries on business as a landlord.” The definition of registered mail is set out in section 1 of the *Act* as “any method of mail delivery provided by Canada Post for which confirmation of delivery to a named person is available.”

I find that the tracking number listed on the Canada Post transaction receipt provided by the landlord along with the Proof of Service Notice of Direct Request Proceeding form is for an item sent by Canada Post’s Xpress Post service, which may or may not require a signature from the intended recipient to confirm delivery of the document to the person named as the respondent. On the Canada Post website, the tracking number associated with this Xpress Post mailing provides information which demonstrates that a signature option for confirmation of delivery was not required.

Based on the evidentiary material provided by the landlord, I find that the landlord has not demonstrated that a signature was received from the intended recipient for the delivery of this Xpress Post mailing and, as such, this mailing does not meet the definition of registered mail as defined under the *Act*. I further find that there is no evidence before me that establishes that the landlord was given leave to serve the Direct Request Proceeding documents in an alternate fashion as ordered by a delegate of the director of the Residential Tenancy Branch in accordance with sections 89(1)(e) or 89(2)(e) of the *Act*.

Since I find that the landlord has not served the tenant with notice of this application in accordance with section 89 of the *Act*, I find that the landlord has not demonstrated that the Notice of Direct Request Proceeding documents were served to the tenant by way of registered mail. I will rely on the other Proof of Service Notice of Direct Request Proceeding form provided by the landlord, which demonstrates that the tenant was served with the Notice of Direct Request Proceeding documents by way of attaching a copy to a door or other conspicuous place at the address at which the tenant resides.

Special rules for certain documents

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- (a) by leaving a copy with the tenant;
- (b) by sending a copy by registered mail to the address at which the tenant resides;
- (c) by leaving a copy at the tenant's residence with an adult who apparently resides with the tenant;
- (d) by attaching a copy to a door or other conspicuous place at the address at which the tenant resides;

Section 89(2) of the *Act* does allow for the Notice of Direct Request Proceeding to be attached to the door of the rental unit only when considering the issuance of an Order of Possession for the landlord. As the landlord served the Notice of Direct Request Proceeding in accordance with section 89(2)(d) of the *Act*, I have leave to hear only that part of the landlord's application that asks for an Order of Possession. I do not have leave to hear the landlord's application for a monetary Order. Therefore, I dismiss the landlord's application for a monetary Order with leave to reapply.

I find that the tenant was obligated to pay monthly rent in the amount of \$1,300.00, as established in the tenancy agreement. I accept the evidence before me that the tenant has failed to pay rental arrears in the amount of \$1,300.00, comprised of the balance of unpaid rent owed by June 01, 2018 for the month of June 2018.

I accept the landlord's undisputed evidence and find that the tenant did not pay the rent owed in full within the five days granted under section 46 (4) of the *Act* and did not apply to dispute the Notice within that five-day period.

Based on the foregoing, I find that the tenant is conclusively presumed under section 46(5) of the *Act* to have accepted that the tenancy ended on the corrected effective date of the Notice, June 17, 2018.

Therefore, I find that the landlord is entitled to an Order of Possession based on the June 04, 2018 Notice served to the tenant for unpaid rent owed by June 01, 2018.

Conclusion

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

I dismiss the landlord's application for a monetary Order 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: August 14, 2018

Residential Tenancy Branch