



# Dispute Resolution Services

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Residential Tenancy Branch  
Office of Housing and Construction Standards

## **DECISION**

Dispute Codes      OPRM-DR, FFL

### 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 Proof of Service of the Notice of Direct Request Proceeding forms which declare that on March 30, 2020 the landlord served each of the above-named tenants with the Notice of Direct Request Proceeding via registered mail. The landlord provided two copies of the Canada Post Customer Receipts containing the Tracking Numbers to confirm these mailings. Section 90 of the *Act* determines that a document served in this manner is deemed to have been received five days after service.

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 April 04, 2020, 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*?

Is the landlord entitled to recover the filing fee for this application pursuant to section 72 of the *Act*?

## Background and Evidence

I have reviewed all written submissions and evidence before me; however, only the evidence and submissions relevant to the issues and findings in this matter are described in this decision.

On the landlord's Application for Dispute Resolution by Direct Request (the "application"), the landlord seeks an Order of Possession based on unpaid rent and a Monetary Order for unpaid rent in the amount of \$4,895.00, which the landlord states is comprised of unpaid rent owed for the months encompassing the period of March 2020 to May 2020.

The landlord submitted the following evidentiary material:

- A copy of a residential tenancy agreement which was signed by the landlord and the tenants, indicating a monthly rent of \$2,000.00 due on the first day of each month for a tenancy commencing on December 15, 2019;
- A Direct Request Worksheet showing the rent owing and paid during the relevant portion of this tenancy in question, on which the landlord establishes that there is unpaid rent owed in the amount of \$895.00, comprised of the balance of unpaid rent due by March 01, 2020. The landlord stated that rent in the amount of \$2,370.00 was owed by March 01, 2020 and that the tenants provided payment on March 03, 2020 in the amount of \$1,475.00, resulting in an outstanding balance of \$895.00 owed for the month of March 2020;
- A copy of a 10 Day Notice to End Tenancy for Unpaid Rent (the Notice) dated March 02, 2020, which the landlord states was served to the tenants on March 02, 2020, for \$2,370.00 in unpaid rent due on March 01, 2020, with a stated effective vacancy date of March 17, 2020.

The Notice restates section 46(4) of the Act which provides that the tenants 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 tenants did not apply to dispute the Notice within five days from the date of service and the landlord alleged that the tenants did not pay the rental arrears.

On the application, the landlord stated that the Notice was served to the tenants by way of registered mail. The landlord provided a document from Canada Post which includes the tracking number and tracking history associated with the registered mail service chosen to deliver the Notice to the tenants. The document also includes a signature to demonstrate that the registered mail item was received by an individual bearing the same name as the tenant "CC" and that the individual acknowledged receipt of the registered mail item by providing his signature. The document depicts that the registered mail service was initiated on March 02, 2020.

### Analysis

I have reviewed all relevant documentary evidence provided by the landlord. Section 90 of the Act provides that because the Notice was served by registered mail, the tenants are deemed to have received the Notice five days after its mailing. In accordance with sections 88 and 90 of the Act, I find that the tenants are deemed to have received the Notice on March 07, 2020, five days after its registered mailing.

In a Direct Request proceeding, a landlord cannot pursue unpaid rent owed for a period beyond the due date for unpaid rent listed on the Notice issued to the tenant, in this case, March 01, 2020. Therefore, within the purview of the Direct Request process, I cannot consider the portion of the rental arrears arising from unpaid rent purportedly owed for the months of April 2020 and May 2020, and will therefore make a determination based on the amount of unpaid rent indicated as being due by March 01, 2020, as indicated on the Notice provided to the tenants.

Based on the foregoing, I dismiss the portion of the landlord's monetary claim for unpaid rent owing for the months of April 2020 and May 2020, with leave to reapply. I will only consider the landlord's application for a monetary Order related to unpaid rent arising from the March 02, 2020 Notice issued to the tenants, which alerted the tenants to unpaid rent due by March 01, 2020.

According to the Direct Request worksheet provided by the landlord, the tenants were required to pay unpaid rent in the amount of \$2,370.00, which was owed by March 01, 2020 and that the tenants provided a partial payment on March 03, 2020 in the amount of \$1,475.00, resulting in an outstanding balance of \$895.00 owed for the month of March 2020.

I find that the tenants were obligated to pay monthly rent in the amount of \$2,000.00, as established in the tenancy agreement. I accept the evidence before me that the tenants have failed to pay rental arrears in the amount of \$895.00, comprised of the balance of unpaid rent owed by March 01, 2020 for the month of March 2020.

I accept the landlord's undisputed evidence and find that the tenants 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 tenants are conclusively presumed under section 46(5) of the *Act* to have accepted that the tenancy ended on the effective date of the Notice, March 17, 2020.

Therefore, I find that the landlord is entitled to an Order of Possession and a monetary Order of \$895.00 for the balance of unpaid rent owed by March 01, 2020, as claimed on the landlord's Application for Dispute Resolution by Direct Request.

As the landlord was successful in this application, I find that the landlord is entitled to recover the \$100.00 filing fee paid for this application.

### Conclusion

I grant an Order of Possession to the landlord effective **two days after service of this Order** on the tenant(s). 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.

Pursuant to sections 67 and 72 of the *Act*, I find that the landlord is entitled to a monetary Order in the amount of \$995.00 for unpaid rent, and for the recovery of the filing fee for this application. The landlord is provided with these Orders in the above terms and the tenant(s) must be served with **this Order** as soon as possible. Should the tenant(s) fail to comply with these Orders, these Orders may be filed in the Small Claims Division of the Provincial Court and enforced as Orders of that Court.

I dismiss the portion of the landlord's monetary claim for unpaid rent owing for the months of April 2020 and May 2020, 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: May 29, 2020

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Residential Tenancy Branch