



Dispute Resolution Services

Page: 1

Residential Tenancy Branch
Office of Housing and Construction Standards

DECISION

Dispute Codes OPU-DR, OPUM-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 landlords for an Order of Possession based on unpaid rent and a Monetary Order.

The landlords submitted two signed Proof of Service Notice of Direct Request Proceeding forms which declare that on January 21, 2021, the landlords sent each of the tenants the Notice of Direct Request Proceeding by registered mail to the rental unit. The landlords provided a copy of the Canada Post Customer Receipts containing the Tracking Numbers to confirm these mailings. Based on the written submissions of the landlords and in accordance with sections 89 and 90 of the *Act*, I find that the tenants are deemed to have been served with the Direct Request Proceeding documents on January 26, 2021, the fifth day after their registered mailing.

Issue(s) to be Decided

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

Are the landlords entitled to monetary compensation for unpaid rent pursuant to section 67 of the *Act*?

Are the landlords 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.

The landlords submitted the following relevant evidentiary material:

- A copy of a residential tenancy agreement which was signed by the landlords and the tenants on October 2, 2020, indicating a monthly rent of \$2,900.00, due on the first day of each month for a tenancy commencing on November 1, 2020;
- A copy of a utility bill from BC Hydro for the rental unit dated November 30, 2020 for \$580.92 and indicating that the tenants' portion is \$188.99;
- A copy of an e-mail demand letter from the landlords to the tenants, dated December 3, 2020, requesting payment of utilities;
- A copy of a 10 Day Notice to End Tenancy for Unpaid Rent (the 10 Day Notice) dated January 12, 2021, for \$5,800.00 in unpaid rent and \$188.99 in unpaid utilities. The 10 Day Notice provides 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 on the stated effective vacancy date of January 22, 2021;
- A copy of a witnessed Proof of Service Notice to End Tenancy form which indicates that the 10 Day Notice was placed in the tenants' mailbox at 12:00 pm on January 12, 2021; and
- A Direct Request Worksheet showing the rent owing and paid during the relevant portion of this tenancy.

Analysis

I have reviewed all documentary evidence and I find that the tenants were obligated to pay the monthly rent in the amount of \$2,900.00, as per the tenancy agreement.

In accordance with sections 88 and 90 of the *Act*, I find that the tenants were deemed served with the 10 Day Notice on January 15, 2021, three days after it was placed in the mailbox.

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

Based on the foregoing, I find that the tenants are conclusively presumed under sections 46(5) and 53(2) of the *Act* to have accepted that the tenancy ended on the corrected effective date of the 10 Day Notice, January 25, 2021.

In this type of matter the landlords must prove that they served the tenants with the demand letter and a copy of the utility bill in accordance with section 88 of the *Act*. I find that the landlords have sent a request for utility payment by e-mail, which is not a recognized method of service under the *Act*.

For this reason, the landlords' application for a Monetary Order for unpaid utilities is dismissed with leave to reapply.

Therefore, I find that the landlords are entitled to an Order of Possession and a monetary award in the amount of \$5,800.00, the amount claimed by the landlords for unpaid rent owing for December 2020 and January 2021, as of the date of this application, January 21, 2021.

As the landlords were partially successful in this application, I find that the landlords are entitled to recover the \$100.00 filing fee paid for this application.

Conclusion

I grant an Order of Possession to the landlords 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 grant the landlords a Monetary Order in the amount of \$5,900.00 for rent owed for December 2020 and January 2021 and for the recovery of the filing fee for this application. The landlords are provided with this Order 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 this Order, this Order may be filed in the Small Claims Division of the Provincial Court and enforced as an Order of that Court.

I dismiss the landlords' application for a Monetary Order for unpaid utilities 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: February 10, 2021

Residential Tenancy Branch