



Dispute Resolution Services

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Residential Tenancy Branch
Office of Housing and Construction Standards

DECISION

Dispute Codes MNSDB-DR, FFT

Introduction

This matter proceeded by way of an *ex parte* Direct Request Proceeding, pursuant to section 38.1 of the *Residential Tenancy Act* (the *Act*), and dealt with an Application for Dispute Resolution by the tenants for a Monetary Order for the return of double the security deposit and the pet damage deposit (the deposits).

The tenants submitted a signed Proof of Service Tenant's Notice of Direct Request Proceeding which declares that on January 18, 2021, the tenants sent the landlord the Notice of Direct Request Proceeding by registered mail. The tenants provided a copy of the Canada Post Customer Receipt containing the Tracking Number to confirm this mailing in fact took place on January 15, 2021. Based on the written submissions of the tenants and in accordance with sections 89 and 90 of the *Act*, I find that the landlord is deemed to have been served with the Direct Request Proceeding documents on January 20, 2021, the fifth day after their registered mailing.

Issue(s) to be Decided

Are the tenants entitled to monetary compensation for the return of a security deposit and a pet damage deposit pursuant to sections 38 and 67 of the *Act*?

Are the tenants 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 tenants submitted the following relevant evidentiary material:

- A copy of a residential tenancy agreement which was signed by the landlord and the tenants on February 18, 2020, indicating a monthly rent of \$3,600.00, a security deposit of \$1,800.00, and a pet damage deposit of \$1,800.00, for a tenancy commencing on February 23, 2020

- A copy of a notice to vacate which was signed by the tenants on July 31, 2020, indicating the tenancy would end as of August 31, 2020
- A copy of a Tenant's Notice of Forwarding Address for the Return of Security and/or Pet Damage Deposit (the forwarding address) dated November 16, 2020
- A copy of a Proof of Service Tenant Forwarding Address for the Return of Security and/or Pet Damage Deposit form (Proof of Service of the Forwarding Address) which indicates that the forwarding address was sent to the landlord by registered mail at 9:18 am on November 23, 2020
- A copy of a Canada Post Customer Receipt containing the Tracking Number to confirm the forwarding address was in fact sent to the landlord on November 16, 2020
- A copy of a Tenant's Direct Request Worksheet showing the amount of deposits paid by the tenants and indicating the tenancy ended on August 31, 2020

Analysis

Section 38(1) of the *Act* states that the landlord has fifteen days from the end of tenancy and the date they received the forwarding address to either return the deposit(s) in full or make an application for dispute resolution claiming against the deposit(s).

Section 38(6) of the *Act* states that if the landlord does not return the deposit(s) or file a claim against them within the fifteen days, the landlord must pay the tenant double the amount of the deposit(s).

I have reviewed all documentary evidence and I find that the tenants paid a security deposit in the amount of \$1,800.00 and a pet damage deposit in the amount of \$1,800.00, as per the tenancy agreement.

I accept the following declarations made by the tenants on the Tenant's Direct Request Worksheet:

- The tenants have not provided consent for the landlord to keep all or part of the deposits
- There are no outstanding Monetary Orders against the tenants for this tenancy; and
- The tenants have not extinguished their right to the deposits in accordance with sections 24(1) and 36(1) of the *Act*.

I accept that the tenancy ended on August 31, 2020, in accordance with the notice to vacate and the Tenant's Direct Request Worksheet.

In accordance with sections 88 and 90 of the *Act*, I find that the landlord was deemed served with the forwarding address on November 21, 2020, five days after its registered mailing.

I accept the evidence before me that the landlord has failed to return the deposits to the tenants and has not filed an Application for Dispute Resolution requesting to retain the deposits by December 6, 2020, within the fifteen days granted under section 38(1) of the *Act*.

Based on the foregoing, I find that the landlord must pay the tenants double the amount of the security deposit and the pet damage deposit in accordance sections 38(6) of the *Act*.

Therefore, as of the date of this application, January 12, 2021, I find that the tenants are entitled to a monetary award in the amount of \$7,200.00, the amount claimed by the tenants for double the security deposit and the pet damage deposit.

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

Conclusion

Pursuant to sections 67 and 72 of the *Act*, I grant the tenant a Monetary Order in the amount of \$7,300.00 for the return of double the security deposit and the pet damage deposit and for the recovery of the filing fee for this application. The tenants are provided with this Order in the above terms and the landlord must be served with **this Order** as soon as possible. Should the landlord 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.

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 25, 2021

Residential Tenancy Branch