



Dispute Resolution Services

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Residential Tenancy Branch
Office of Housing and Construction Standards

DECISION

Dispute Codes

For the tenant: CNR
For the landlord: OPRM-DR, OPR-DR, FFL, MNDCL

Introduction

On March 9, 2021 the tenant applied for dispute resolution for an order cancelling the 10-Day Notice to End Tenancy Issued for Unpaid Rent or Utilities issued by the landlord (the “10-Day Notice”).

On March 16, 2021 the landlord applied for an order of possession of the rental unit, and a monetary order for rent not paid. Additionally, they applied for reimbursement of the application filing fee.

The landlord’s application here was filed initially as a Direct Request. The matter proceeded by way of participatory hearing because this Direct Request application cannot be considered by that method when there is a cross-application by the tenant in place.

The matter proceeded by way of a hearing pursuant to section 74(2) of the *Residential Tenancy Act* (the “Act”) on June 17, 2021. The landlord attended the telephone conference call hearing; the tenant did not attend.

Preliminary Matter

To proceed with this hearing, I must be satisfied that the landlord made reasonable attempts to serve the tenant with the notice of this hearing. This means the landlord must provide proof that the document was served in a verified manner allowed under s.

89 of the *Act* and I must accept that evidence. In the hearing the landlord stated that they served a copy of that document in person to the tenants. This included their prepared evidence they presented at this hearing.

After this, they had brief communication about this hearing and the T in those conversations acknowledged this hearing. They also stated their intentions to move at some point in the future.

The landlord stated in the hearing that they did not receive any information about the tenant's application. That application is crossed with that of the landlord here, concerning the same matter.

The tenant did not attend the hearing, although I left the teleconference hearing connection open until 11:14 a.m. to enable them to call in to this teleconference hearing scheduled for 11:00 a.m. I confirmed the correct call-in numbers and participant codes were provided in the Notice of Hearing generated when the tenants applied. I also confirmed throughout the duration of the call that the tenants were not in attendance.

Rule 7.3 of the *Residential Tenancy Branch Rules of Procedure* provides that if a party or their agent fails to attend the hearing, the arbitrator may conduct the hearing in the absence of that party or dismiss the application without leave to reapply. On this basis, I dismiss the tenants' application for cancellation of the 10-Day Notice. The tenants do not have leave to reapply on this issue.

Issue(s) to be Decided

Is the landlord entitled to issue an Order of Possession pursuant to s. 46 and s. 55 of the *Act*?

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

Is the landlord entitled to recover the filing fee for this Application pursuant to s. 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 section.

The landlord spoke to the terms of the tenancy agreement, a copy of which they provided as evidence. The tenancy began on February 1, 2021. The rent amount was \$1,250 per month payable on the 1st of each month. The tenant paid a security deposit of \$625. The tenant was not in attendance at this hearing to provide any information contrary to that presented by the landlord on these discrete points.

The landlord provided a copy of the 10-Day Notice, issued March 4, 2021. This document gave the move-out date of March 14, 2021. This listed the failure by the tenants to pay the rent of \$1,250 on March 1, 2021. The landlord served the document in person to the tenant. As provided in a 'Proof of Service' document, a witness observed this service.

The landlord accepted a payment of \$410 from the tenant on March 4, 2021. They provided a copy of a receipt showing this in their evidence. This leaves \$840 owing for that month.

In the hearing, the landlord testified that the tenant did not pay rent in the months following the 10-Day Notice in March. This adds \$1,250 for each of April, May, and June 2021. The landlord provided that they have limited communication with the tenant, and when they do see the tenant nothing about the rent amounts owing is raised.

The total amount of the landlord's claim for rent amounts owing is \$4,590.

Analysis

From the evidence and testimony of the landlord, I am satisfied that a tenancy agreement was in place. They provided the specific terms of the rent payments as well as the amount the tenants paid for the security deposit. The tenants did not attend the hearing; therefore, there is no evidence before me to show otherwise.

The *Act* s. 46(1) states that a landlord may end a tenancy if rent is unpaid on any day after the rent is due, by giving notice to end the tenancy effective on a date that is not earlier than 10 days after the tenant receives the notice.

The following s. 46(4) states that within 5 days of receiving a notice a tenant may pay the overdue rent, thereby cancelling the Notice, or dispute it by filing an Application for Dispute Resolution.

I accept the undisputed evidence before me that the tenant failed to pay the rent owed in full by March 9, 2021, within the five days granted under s. 46(4) of the *Act*. The tenant disputed the notice within that timeframe; however, I dismissed that Application above.

The *Act* s. 52 states that a notice to end tenancy, in order to be effective, must be in writing and must be signed and dated by the landlord, give the rental unit address, state the effective date, state the grounds for ending the tenancy, and be in the approved form.

I find the landlord has the authority to issue the Notice under s. 46 of the *Act*. On my review of the individual document, I find it complies with the requirements of s. 52 regarding form and content. Therefore, I grant the landlord's request for an Order of Possession under s. 55 of the *Act*.

The *Act* s. 26 outlines a tenant's duty to pay rent:

- (1) A tenant must pay rent when it is due under the tenancy agreement, whether the landlord complies with this *Act*, the regulations or the tenancy agreement, unless the tenant has a right under this *Act* to deduct all or a portion of the rent.

I accept the landlord's affirmed testimony that the tenant failed to pay full rent for March 2021 and the months following through to June 2021. This constitutes a breach of the *Act* and the tenancy agreement. As presented, I find the landlord is entitled to the amount of \$4,590 as they claim.

The *Act* s. 72(2) gives an arbitrator the authority to make a deduction from the security deposit held by the landlord. The landlord has established a claim of \$4,590. After setting off the security deposit amount of \$625, there is a balance of \$3,965. I am authorizing the landlord to keep the security deposit and award the balance of \$3,965 as compensation for rent owing.

As the landlord is successful, I find that the landlord is entitled to recover the \$100 filing fee paid for this application.

Conclusion

In the absence of the tenants I dismiss their application in its entirety and without leave to re-apply.

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

Pursuant to ss. 67 and 72 of the *Act*, I grant the landlord a separate Monetary Order for the recovery of the amounts claimed and the filing fee paid for this application. This amount is \$4,065. The landlord is provided with this Order in the above terms and the tenant must be served with this Order as soon as possible. Should the tenant 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 s. 9.1(1) of the *Act*.

Dated: June 17, 2021

Residential Tenancy Branch