



Dispute Resolution Services

Page: 1

Residential Tenancy Branch
Office of Housing and Construction Standards

DECISION

Dispute Codes MNSDS-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 tenant to obtain monetary compensation for the return of the security deposit (the deposit) and to recover the filing fee paid for the application.

This decision is written based on the Application for Dispute Resolution, evidence, and submissions provided by the tenant on January 24, 2022.

The tenant submitted a signed Proof of Service Tenant's Notice of Direct Request Proceeding which declares that on February 10, 2022, the tenant sent the landlord the Notice of Dispute Resolution Proceeding - Direct Request by registered mail. The tenant provided a copy of the Canada Post Customer Receipt containing the tracking number to confirm this mailing.

Issue(s) to be Decided

Is the tenant entitled to monetary compensation for the return of a security deposit pursuant to sections 38 and 67 of the *Act*?

Is the tenant 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 tenant submitted the following relevant evidentiary material:

- A copy of a text message from the tenant to the landlord dated December 21, 2021, providing the forwarding address, and requesting the return of the deposit
- A copy of a WhatsApp message from the tenant to the landlord dated December 21, 2021, providing the forwarding address, and requesting the return of the deposit

Analysis

In this type of matter, the tenant must prove that they served the landlord with the forwarding address in accordance with section 88 of the *Act*.

Section 88 of the *Act* allows for service by either sending the forwarding address to the landlord by mail, by leaving a copy with the landlord or their agent, by leaving a copy in the landlord's mailbox or mail slot, attaching a copy to the landlord's door or by leaving a copy with an adult who apparently resides with the landlord.

The tenant has indicated that they sent the forwarding address by text message and WhatsApp message, which are not methods of service as indicated above.

For this reason, I find that the forwarding address has not been served in accordance with section 88 of the *Act*.

Therefore, I dismiss the tenant's application for the return of the security deposit based on the text and WhatsApp forwarding addresses dated December 21, 2021, without leave to reapply.

The tenant must reissue the forwarding address and serve it in one of the ways prescribed by section 88 of the *Act*, or according to Residential Tenancy Policy Guideline #49, if the tenant wants to apply through the Direct Request process.

As the tenant was not successful in this application, I find that the tenant is not entitled to recover the \$100.00 filing fee paid for this application.

Conclusion

The tenant's application for the return of the security deposit based on the text and WhatsApp forwarding addresses dated December 21, 2021, is dismissed, without leave to reapply.

I dismiss the tenant's application to recover the filing fee paid for this application without 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: March 01, 2022

Residential Tenancy Branch