



Dispute Resolution Services

Page: 1

Residential Tenancy Branch
Office of Housing and Construction Standards

DECISION

Dispute Codes 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 Proofs of Service of the Notices of Direct Request Proceeding which declare that on May 31, 2019, 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 Receipt 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 June 5, 2019, 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 indicating a monthly rent of \$1,900.00, due on the first day of each month for a tenancy commencing on November 15, 2018;
- Three copies of utility bills from BC Hydro for the rental unit dated December 28, 2018 for \$284.48, February 27, 2019 for \$414.87, and April 30, 2019 for \$305.36;
- Six copies of utility bills from Fortis BC for the rental unit dated November 26, 2018 for \$120.93, December 27, 2018 for \$139.85, January 24, 2019 for \$141.74, February 26, 2019 for \$186.69, March 26, 2019 for \$120.33, and April 26, 2019 for \$102.56;
- Four copies of demand letters from the landlords to the tenants requesting payment of outstanding rent and utilities;
- A copy of a 10 Day Notice to End Tenancy for Unpaid Rent (the 10 Day Notice) dated May 14, 2019, for \$6,778.43 in unpaid rent and 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 May 24, 2019;
- A copy of a witnessed Proof of Service Notice to End Tenancy form which indicates that the 10 Day Notice was posted to the tenant's door at 5:00 pm on May 14, 2019; and
- A Direct Request Worksheet and ledger showing the rent owing and paid during the relevant portion of this tenancy.

Analysis

I have reviewed all documentary evidence and in accordance with sections 88 and 90 of the *Act*, I find that the tenants were deemed served with the 10 Day Notice on May 17, 2019, three days after its posting.

I find that the tenants were obligated to pay the monthly rent in the amount of \$1,900.00, as per the tenancy agreement.

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, May 27, 2019.

In this type of matter the landlords must prove that they served the tenants with a utility demand letter and a copy of the utility bills in accordance with section 88 of the *Act*. I find that the landlords have not provided a copy of a Proof of Service Written Demand to Pay Utilities form or any other evidence to establish service of a demand letter to the tenants.

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

I also note that the only monetary award available to a landlord by way of the direct request process is for unpaid rent and unpaid utilities. As the landlords have also sought a monetary award for matters relating to a Residential Tenancy Branch filing fee from January 18, 2019 in the amount of \$100.00, I would not be able to consider this aspect of the landlords' claim through the direct request process.

Therefore, I find that the landlords are entitled to an Order of Possession and a monetary award in the amount of \$5,900.00, the amount claimed by the landlords, for unpaid rent owing from December 2018 to May 2019 as of May 24, 2019.

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 \$6,000.00 for rent owed from December 2018 to May 2019 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 and a filing fee from January 18, 2019 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: June 06, 2019

Residential Tenancy Branch