

Residential Tenancies Tribunal

Application 2025-0032-NL

Seren Cahill
Adjudicator

Introduction

1. Hearing was held on 8-July-2025.
2. The applicant, [REDACTED], hereinafter referred to as the landlord, attended via teleconference.
3. The respondent, [REDACTED], hereinafter referred to as the tenant, did not attend.

Preliminary Matters

4. The tenant was not present or represented at the hearing and I was unable to reach them by telephone at the start of the hearing. This Tribunal's policies concerning notice requirements and hearing attendance have been adopted from the *Rules of the Supreme Court, 1986*. According to Rule 29.05(2)(a) respondents to an application must be served with claim and notice of the hearing 10 clear days prior to the hearing date and, where the respondent fails to attend the hearing, Rule 29.11(1) states that the hearing may proceed in the respondent's absence so long as they have been properly served. The landlord submitted an affidavit (LL#1) with their application stating that they had served the tenant by registered mail on 17-June-2025 at approximately 2:30 pm. The tracking number was provided as [REDACTED]. Checking this number revealed that the notice was delivered successfully. Proof of service was also provided (LL#2). As the tenant was properly served, and as any further delay in these proceedings would unfairly disadvantage the landlord, I proceeded with the hearing in their absence.

Issues before the Tribunal

5. Should the landlord's application for an order of vacant possession succeed?

Legislation and Policy

6. The jurisdiction of the Director of Residential Tenancies is outlined in sections 46 and 47 of the *Act*.

7. Also considered and referred to in this decision are sections 18(2), 18(9), and 34 of the *Act*, reproduced below:

Notice of termination of rental agreement

18. ...

(2) A landlord shall give the tenant notice that the rental agreement is terminated and the tenant is required to vacate the residential premises

- (a) not less than 4 weeks before the end of a rental period where the residential premises is rented from week to week;
- (b) not less than 3 months before the end of a rental period where the residential premises is rented from month to month; and
- (c) not less than 3 months before the end of the term where the residential premises is rented for a fixed term.

...

(9) In addition to the requirements under section 34, a notice under this section shall

- (a) be signed by the person providing the notice;
- (b) be given not later than the first day of a rental period;
- (c) state the date, which shall be the last day of a rental period, on which the rental agreement terminates and the tenant intends to vacate the residential premises or the date by which the tenant is required to vacate the residential premises; and
- (d) be served in accordance with section 35.

Requirements for notices

34. A notice under this Act shall

- (a) be in writing in the form prescribed by the minister;
- (b) contain the name and address of the recipient;
- (c) identify the residential premises for which the notice is given; and
- (d) state the section of this Act under which the notice is given.

Issue 1: Vacant Possession of the Rental Premises

8. To receive an order for vacant possession, a landlord must have issued a valid termination notice. To be valid, a termination notice must comply with all relevant sections of the *Act*. The landlord submitted LL#3, a termination notice they say was served on the tenant.

9. LL#3 is in writing in the form prescribed by the minister. It contains the name and address of the recipient. It identifies the residential premises for which it was given. It states it is issued under s. 18 of the *Act*. It therefore complies with s. 34.
10. LL#3 was signed by the landlord. They testified that it was served on the tenant on 1-January-2025, which is the first day of the relevant rental period. It gives a move out date of 31-March-2025, which is the last day of a rental period. It was served in accordance with s.35(2)(f) of the *Act*. It therefore complies with s. 18(9).
11. LL#3 provides three full months' notice as required by s. 18(2).
12. LL#3 complies with all relevant sections of the *Act* and is therefore valid.

Decision

13. A valid termination notice was issued which gives a move out date of 31-March-2025. The rental agreement terminated on that date. Insofar as the tenant is still residing at the premises, he is doing so illegally.
14. The landlord's application for an order of vacant possession succeeds.

Summary of Decision

15. The tenants shall vacate the premises immediately.
16. The tenants shall pay to the landlord any costs charged to the landlord, by the Office of the High Sherriff, should the landlord be required to have the Sheriff enforce the attached Order of Possession.
17. The landlord is granted an order of possession.

15-July-2025

Date


Seren Cahill
Residential Tenancies Office