

Residential Tenancies Tribunal

Applications: 2022 No. 0370 NL

Decision 22-0370-00

Jaclyn Casler
Adjudicator

Introduction

1. The hearing was called at 2:00PM on 04 July 2022 via teleconference.
2. The applicant, [REDACTED], as represented by [REDACTED], hereinafter referred to as “the landlord”, participated in the hearing.
3. The respondent, [REDACTED], hereinafter referred to as “the tenant”, did not participate in the hearing.
4. An affidavit of service was provided by the landlord (L#1) confirming that the tenant was served by registered mail of the claim against him. A review of the tracking number provided with the affidavit indicates that the package was not picked up by the tenant, however, subsection 42(6) of the *Residential Tenancies Act* considers items served by registered mail, to be served 5 days after the registered mail is sent.
5. The details of the claim were presented as a month-to-month rental agreement, running since 01 December 2003 with monthly rent is set at \$655.00. A security deposit was not collected and a copy of the written rental agreement was not provided.
6. In a proceeding under the *Residential Tenancies Act*, the applicant has the burden of proof. This means the applicant has the responsibility to prove that the outcome they are requesting should be granted. The standard of proof, in these proceedings, is referred to as the balance of probabilities which means the applicants have to establish that their account of events is more likely than not to have happened.

Issues before the Tribunal

- The landlord is seeking an order for vacant possession.

Legislation and Policy

7. The jurisdiction of the Director of Residential Tenancies is outlined in sections 46 and 47 of the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2018* (the *Act*).
8. Also relevant and considered in this case is section 18 of the *Act* and rule 29 of *The Rules of the Supreme Court, 1986*.

Preliminary Matters

9. The tenant was not present or represented at the hearing and I was unable to reach him by telephone because no phone number was available. This Tribunal's policies concerning notice requirements and hearing attendance have been adopted from the *Rules of the Supreme Court, 1986*.
10. 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 he has been properly served.
11. As the tenant was properly served, and any further delay in these proceedings would unfairly disadvantage the landlord, I proceeded with the hearing in his absence.

Issue 1: Vacant Possession Relevant Submissions

12. The landlord provided a copy of the termination notice issued on 24 March 2022 (L#2). The notice was issued under "section 18(2)(b)" of the *Act* and identified a stated move out date of 30 June 2022. The notice was served personally to the door of the rental unit on the day it was issued.
13. The landlord is seeking an order for vacant possession of the rented premises.

Analysis

14. Section 18 of the *Act* allows a landlord to terminate a rental agreement on three (3) months notice without having to provide reasons to either the tenant or to this Tribunal.
15. The validity of such a notice is determined by its compliance with any number of provisions of the *Act*. If and where a notice is found to not comply with any particular provision, the notice is deemed not valid.
16. Specific to a termination notice issued by a landlord under section 18 of the *Act*, it is required to comply with each of the following to be deemed valid:
 - Rental agreement specific timelines for issuing a notice (18(2) of the *Act*);
 - Specific details on notices issued (18(9) of the *Act*);

- Specific details on notices issued (34 of the *Act*); and
- Requirements for service of the notice (35 of the *Act*).


17. I accept the landlord's claim and evidence that the tenant was issued the notice submitted on 24 March 2022 and that the notice was properly served. As the notice meets all the requirements set out in the *Act*, as seen above, and as it was properly served, it is a valid notice.

Decision

18. The landlord's claim for an order for vacant possession of the rented premises succeeds.
19. The tenant shall pay to the landlord any costs charged to the landlord by the Office of the High Sheriff should the landlord be required to have the Sheriff enforce the attached Order of Possession.

05 July 2022

Date


Jaclyn Casler
Residential Tenancies Tribunal