

Residential Tenancies Tribunal

Application 2023-No.0499-NL

Decision 23-0499-00

Jacqueline Williams
Adjudicator

Introduction

1. Hearing was called at 11:15 a.m. on 06-July-2023.
2. The applicant, [REDACTED] hereinafter referred to as "the landlord" attended by 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 him by telephone at the start of the hearing as the line was not in service. [REDACTED] 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 he has been properly served. The landlord submitted an affidavit (LL#01) with the application stating that they had served the tenant with notice of the hearing, by pre-paid registered mail [REDACTED] on 31-May-2023. The landlord said that the package was not picked up and subsequently returned to them. In accordance with the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2018*, pre-paid registered mail is considered served 5 days after mailing. 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 his absence.
5. The landlord amended their application to increase rent from \$2,070.00 to \$2,195.00 to reflect the current amount of rent due. She also removed late fees from the application.

Issues before the Tribunal

6. The landlord is seeking:
 - Rent \$2,195.00
 - Security deposit applied against monies owed \$517.50
 - Vacant possession of rental premises

- Hearing Expenses \$36.32

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*.
8. Also relevant and considered in this decision are the following sections of the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2018*: Section 14: Security deposit, and Section 19: Notice where failure to pay rent.

Issue 1: Rent \$2,195.00

Relevant Submissions

9. The landlord submitted a rental agreement (LL#02) with the application. They entered a written term agreement with the tenant from 01-October-2022 until 30-September-2023. The tenant pays \$1,035.00 a month which includes heat (but not electric). The rental period is from the 1st day of the month until the last day; rent is due the 1st day of each month. The landlord said that the tenant paid a security deposit of \$517.50 on 03-October-2022 and they are still in possession of the deposit.
10. The landlord stated that the tenant was behind in his rent, he had made a payment the end of March which brought his arrears up to date. In April the rent was in arrears again; she submitted a rent ledger (LL#03) as follows:

Rent ledger
2023-0499-NL

Date	Action	Amount	total
1-Apr-23	rent due	1035.00	1035.00
1-May-23	rent due	1035.00	2070.00
1-Jun-23	rent due	1035.00	3105.00
8-Jun-23	payment	-1945.00	1160.00
1-Jul-23	rent due daily rate July 01-06	204.18	1364.18

Daily rate: \$1,035.00 x 12 months = \$12,420.00
\$12,420.00 divided by 365 days = \$34.03
\$34.03 x 6 days = \$204.18

11. Note: ledger is amended to show a daily rate for July as this tribunal doesn't consider future rent.
12. The landlord is seeking full compensation for rent owed.

Analysis

13. Non-payment of rent is a violation of the rental agreement (LL#02). I accept the landlord's testimony and evidence that the tenant did not pay rent totaling \$1,364.18.

14. The tenant shall pay the landlord the rent owed totaling \$1,364.18.

Decision

15. The landlord's claim for rent succeeds in the amount of \$1,364.18.

Issue 2: Security deposit applied against monies owed \$517.50

Relevant Submissions

16. The landlord stated in paragraph 9 that the tenant paid a security deposit of \$517.50 on 03-October-2022 and they are still in possession of the deposit. The landlord is requesting to retain the security deposit against monies owed.

Analysis

17. The landlord's claim for loss has been successful, paragraph 15, and they shall retain the deposit as per Section 14 of the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2018*, see below:

Security deposit

14. (10) Where a landlord believes he or she has a claim for all or part of the security deposit,

(a) the landlord and tenant may enter into a written agreement on the disposition of the security deposit; or

(b) the landlord or the tenant may apply to the director under section 42 to determine the disposition of the security deposit.

Decision

18. The landlords' claim to retain the security deposit against monies owed succeeds in the amount of \$517.50.

Issue 3: Vacant Possession of the Rental Premises

Relevant Submissions

19. The landlord submitted a termination notice (LL#04). It is on a "landlord's notice to terminate early – cause" form for failure to pay rent. The notice is signed and dated for 26-May-2023, with a termination date of 06-June-2023.

20. The landlord said that she posted the notice to the tenant's door on 26-May-2023.

Analysis

21. The notice was served under Section 19, of the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2018*, which states:

Notice where failure to pay rent

19. (1) Notwithstanding subsection 18(2) and paragraph 18(3)(b),

.....

(b) where the residential premises is

- (i) rented from month to month,*
- (ii) rented for a fixed term, or*
- (iii) a site for a mobile home, and*

the amount of rent payable by a tenant is overdue for 5 days or more, the landlord may give the tenant notice that the rental agreement is terminated and that the tenant is required to vacate the residential premises on a specified date not less than 10 days after the notice is served on the tenant.

.....

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

(a) be signed by the landlord;

(b) state the date on which the rental agreement terminates and the tenant is required to vacate the residential premises; and

(c) be served in accordance with section 35.

.....

22. The tenant was in rent arrears in excess of the 5 days when the notice was served. On the date of termination, the tenant was still in arrears. The termination notice meets the requirements of the *Act* and is a valid notice. The notice was served in accordance of the *Act*.

23. The tenant should have vacated the property by 06-June-2023.

Decision

24. The landlord's claim for an order for vacant possession succeeds.

25. The tenant shall vacate the premises immediately.

26. The tenant shall pay to the landlords 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.
27. The tenant shall pay a daily rate for rent beginning 07-July-2023 of \$34.03, as per paragraph 10, until such time as the landlords regain possession of the property.

Issue 4: Hearing expenses reimbursed \$36.32

28. The landlord submitted the receipt for \$20.00 for the cost of the hearing, as well as, \$16.31 for the cost of registered mail (LL#05) and pursuant to policy 12.01, is entitled to reimbursement of those costs from the tenant.

Summary of Decision

29. The tenant shall:
 - Pay the landlord \$883.00 as follows:
 - Rent \$1,364.18
 - Hearing expenses 36.32
 - Security deposit applied (517.50)
 - Total \$883.00
 - Pay a daily rate of rent beginning 07-July-2023 of \$34.03, until such time as the landlords regain possession of the property.
 - Vacate the property immediately
 - Pay to the landlords 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.

The landlord

- Will be awarded an Order of Possession.
- Shall retain the security deposit of \$517.50.

July 18, 2023

Date

Residential Tenancies Office