

Residential Tenancies Tribunal

Application 2024-0150-NL

Decision 24-0150-00

Pamela Pennell
Adjudicator

Introduction

1. Hearing was called at 1:59 p.m. on 14-March-2024.
2. The applicant, [REDACTED] represented by [REDACTED] hereinafter referred to as "the landlord", attended by teleconference.
3. The respondent, [REDACTED] hereinafter referred to as "the tenant" did not attend the hearing.

Preliminary Matters

4. The respondent was not present at the hearing, and I was unable to reach her 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 hearing 10 clear days prior to the hearing date and, where the respondents fail to attend the hearing, Rule 29.11(1) states that the hearing may proceed in the respondent's absence so long as she has been properly served. The landlord submitted an affidavit with their application stating that they served the tenant with the notice of hearing personally at the residential premises on 2-March-2024 (LL#1). In accordance with the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2018* this is good service. 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 her absence.
5. There is a written month-to-month rental agreement which commenced on 21-September-2022. Rent is \$700.00 per month, due on the 1st of each month. A security deposit of \$400.00 was paid on 21-September-2022 and is in the landlord's possession.

Issues before the Tribunal

6. The landlord is seeking:
 - An order for vacant possession of the rented premises

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 is the following section of the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2018*: Section 18: Notice of termination of rental agreement.

Issue # 1: Vacant Possession of the Rented Premises

Relevant Submissions

9. The landlord submitted a copy of a termination notice issued to the tenant (LL#2). The notice was dated for 22-November-2023 under Section 18; Notice of termination of rental agreement to vacate the premises on 29-February-2024.

Analysis

10. The notice was served under Section 18 of the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2018* which states:

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.*

11. The termination notice submitted by the landlord meets the requirements of not less than 3 months before the end of a rental period where the residential premises is rented month-to-month. The landlord stated that the termination notice was given in person to the tenant on 22-November-2023. In accordance with the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2018* as stated above, the termination notice meets the requirements of the Act and is a valid notice.

12. I find that the tenant should have vacated the premises on 29-February-2024.

Decision

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

Summary of Decision:

14. The termination notice is a valid notice.

15. The tenant shall vacate the premises immediately.

16. 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.

17. The landlord will be awarded an Order of Possession.

March 25, 2024

Date

Pamela Pennell
Residential Tenancies Office