

Residential Tenancies Tribunal

Decision 21-0003-04

Michael Greene
Adjudicator

Introduction

1. The hearing was called at **1:45 pm** (NL Time) on **05 April 2021** at Residential Tenancies Hearing Room, 84 Mt. Bernard Avenue, Lower Level, The Sir Richard Squires Building, Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador.
2. The applicant, [REDACTED], hereafter referred to as the landlord, participated in the hearing and was represented by [REDACTED].
3. The respondent, [REDACTED], hereafter referred to as the tenant, did not participate in the hearing.
4. The details of the claim were presented as a written monthly rental agreement with rent set at \$444.00 per month and due on the 1st of each month. It was stated that there was no security deposit collected on this tenancy. The landlord issued a termination notice dated 15 November 2020 for the intended termination date of 14 January 2021 under Section 19 of the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2018*.
5. In a proceeding under the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2018*, 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. In these proceedings the standard of proof is referred to as the balance of probabilities which means the applicant has to establish that his/her account of events are more likely than not to have happened.

Preliminary Matters

6. The tenant, [REDACTED], was not present or represented at the hearing. The Tribunal's policies concerning notice requirements and hearing attendance has been adopted from the *Rules of the Supreme Court, 1986*.
 - a. Rule 29.05(2)(a) states *a respondent to an application must be served with claim and notice of the hearing 10 clear days prior to the hearing date* and, 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/she has been properly served*.

The affidavit submitted by the landlord shows that the tenant was served with the notice of this hearing on the **10 March 2021** by serving the application for dispute resolution document to the tenant by email: [REDACTED]. Copies of the sent email and verification were attached to the file. The tenant has had **25 days** to provide a response.

A phone call was placed to the tenant with the following results:

[REDACTED] – No answer and a message was left.

As the tenant was properly served in accordance with the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2018*, with the application for dispute resolution, and as any further delay in these proceedings would unfairly disadvantage the landlord applicant, I proceeded with the hearing.

7. The landlord amended the claim at the hearing to:
 - a. Decrease the amount of rent being claimed to \$6574.00 from \$7202.00 as a result of rent that has come due and payments made since the filing of the application.

Issues before the Tribunal

8. The landlord is seeking the following:
 - a) Vacant possession of the rented premises
 - b) Payment of rent owing **\$6574.00**
 - c) Hearing expenses

Legislation and Policy

9. The jurisdiction of the Director of Residential Tenancies is outlined in the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2018 (the Act)*, Section 47.
10. Also relevant and considered in this case are Sections 19, 34 and 35 of *the Act*; and Policy 12-1: *Recovery of Fees: Filing, Costs, Hearing Expense, Interest, Late Payment and NSF*.

Issue 1: Rent Owing - \$6574.00

Relevant Submissions

Landlord Position

11. The landlord stated that they had entered into a written rental agreement with the tenant, commencing 27 March 2019. The agreed rent was set at \$444.00 per month and due on the 1st day of each month with no security deposit collected on this tenancy. The landlord issued a termination notice (**Exhibit L # 3**) on 15 November 2020 for the intended date of 14 January 2021 (section 19). The landlord stated that rent was outstanding in the amount of \$6574.00 (**Exhibit L # 1**) for the period ending 30 April 2021 and stated as of the hearing date 05 April 2021 rent remains outstanding.

Analysis

12. I have reviewed the testimony and evidence of the landlord in this matter. As far as I can see, there is one issue here that needs to be addressed: (i) is the rent that is being claimed by the landlord actually owed by the tenant.
13. With respect to the arrears being claimed, I agree with the landlord that rent is owed. Rent is required to be paid by the tenant for use and occupation of the rented premises as set out in the rental agreement established when the tenancy began. Records are clear that rent for the period ending 31 March 2021 is outstanding in the amount of **\$6130.00**. Rent for the month of April 2021 can only be awarded up to and including the hearing date (05 April 2021) and is calculated as ($\$444.00 \times 12 \text{ months} = \$5,328.00 \div 365 \text{ days} = \$14.60 \text{ per day} \times 5 \text{ days} = \73.00). Rent for April 1 – 5, 2021 then is **\$73.00**.
14. The landlord is further awarded a daily rate of rent in the amount of \$14.60 commencing on **06 April 2021** and continuing until the day the landlord obtains vacant possession of the property.

20. The landlord testified that the tenant has failed to pay rent as required by the rental agreement and has accumulated excessive rental arrears. The landlord submitted a copy of the termination notice (**Exhibit L # 3**) issued to the tenant on 15 November 2020 for the intended termination date of 14 January 2021 thereby terminating the tenancy effective 14 January 2021.
21. The landlord testified that the notice to terminate was issued to the tenant on 15 November 2020 as per section 35(5) of the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2018*. The landlord indicated that as of the hearing date (05 April 2021), there is one (1) adult and 3 children aged 10, 8 and 3 years living in the unit.

Analysis

22. The validity of the termination notice is determined by its compliance with the notice requirements identified in sections 19(4) and 34 as well as the service requirements identified in section 35.
23. The issue of rental arrears has been established in paragraph 15 above. There is no doubt that the tenant owes rent to the landlord and has failed to pay all the arrears by the ending date of the termination notice (14 January 2021).
24. The landlord issued a termination notice under section 19 of the *Residential Tenancies Act* by sending a copy of same to the rented premises byway of registered mail (██████████). This document was returned to the sender and therefore would be considered served effective 21 November 2020. Section 19 requires that the landlord provide notice to the tenant that the rental agreement is terminated and the tenant is required to vacate the property on a specified date not less than 10 days after the notice has been served. I accept the evidence of the landlord and find that the tenant failed to make the required rent payments thereby accumulating rental arrears as calculated.
25. On examination of the termination notice issued and submitted into evidence (**Exhibit L # 3**), I find the notice was served on 21 November 2020 with a termination date of 14 January 2021. As established above, the tenant has outstanding rent beyond the date of termination. I further find that as the date of termination identified on the notice is not less than 10 days after the notice has been served and the date the tenant is required to move out, the termination notice is in full compliance with the requirements of section 19(4). Sections 19 (4) and 34 identify the technical requirements of the termination notice as identified below. On examination of the termination notice, I find it all these criteria have been met.

section 19 (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.*

section 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.*

26. As identified above, the landlord testified that she served the termination notice by way of a permitted method of service identified under section 35.
27. According to the reasons identified above, I find that the termination notice issued by the landlord to be proper and valid. Therefore, the landlord is entitled to an order for vacant possession of the property along with an order for any and all costs associated with certification of the orders and costs incurred from the Sheriff to enforce such a Possession Order should the Sheriff be engaged to execute the Possession Order.

Decision

28. The landlord's claim for vacant possession succeeds. The landlord is further awarded costs associated with the certification and enforcement of the Possession Order by the High Sheriff of NL.

Summary of Decision

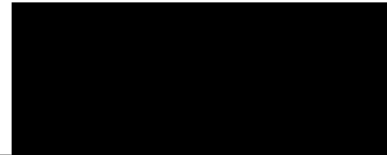
29. The landlord is entitled to the following:

- a) Rent Owing (up to and including 05 April 2021).....\$6203.00
- b) Hearing Expenses \$20.00
- c) **Total owing to Landlord****\$6223.00**

- d) Vacant Possession of the Rented Premises.
- e) A daily rate of rent in the amount of **\$14.60** beginning **06 April 2021**.
- f) An order for any and all costs associated with the certification of the attached orders.
- f) An order for any and all costs associated with the Sheriff to enforce such a Possession Order should the Sheriff be engaged to execute the Possession Order.

07 April 2021

Date



Michael Greene
Residential Tenancies Tribunal