

Building Inspections - bedbugs

From: Samuel Thomson <willverify@gmail.com>
To: <buildinginspections@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: 9/23/2015 1:12 PM
Subject: bedbugs

I would like to file a complaint against my landlord based on the following:

She rented me an apartment that she knew was infested with bedbugs.

She refused to effectively address the issue.

When I refused to pay rent until the issue was resolved, she served me with eviction papers.

After serving me with the summons, she called me everyday from her home, then came to apartment, called from the property, then knocked on my door everyday sometimes twice a day despite her being represented by counsel, which means only counsel should be speaking with me, not her. She was harassing me and trying to bully me into moving out. When I finally opened the door after a week of this harassment, and the landlord approaching my son about this matter; I opened the door.

I advised her that because she was represented, she couldnt speak to me. I asked her what she wanted. She said she wanted to settle the matter. I asked her what she proposed- she said she wanted me to move out. I told her if she refunded my money, I would be happy to. She refused, and made some idle threats, and left.

She has been lying to the other tenants, and bullying them with the threat of homelessness.

She refuses to properly address the issue, or resolve the matter.

The other issues that I addressed myself were: the apartment was not cleaned between tenants/the doors did not lock, only the deadbolts/the apartment was occupied by a heavy smoker, despite the no smoking policy in the building, and the unit smells horrible, and the smell will not go away despite cleaning/painting that I did. The apartment has been poorly cared for for many years. There is inferior carpentry, and I doubt that the building is up to code.

Property: 525 Washington Ave. #3 Portland, Maine.

Landlord: Marty DiBase D & D Properties LLC.

Tenant: Jennifer Goodwin 207-502-3576

I moved in in June, paid for first, last, and security, and I have not been able to live in this apartment without getting bitten by bedbugs, and dealing with the landlord harassing me.

I have tried to rectify this situation with her. I moved everything out of my apartment and took necessary steps to eliminate the bedbugs with the following:

notified landlord about bedbugs

removed all clothing, bedding and everything else from my apartment so the exterminator could treat the apartment. (i have pictures to prove this)

took all items i removed to be treated by washing/drying etc.

the pest control professional that the landlord hired, did an inadequate job, spraying only around the baseboards of a couple rooms, despite the fact that I had cleared out all closets and dressers etc, to eliminate the bugs.

based on the fact that the landlord had two prior unsuccessful treatments, I sought another company and had them inspect my apartment, and advise on the process they would use, as well as their professional opinion about the treatment the landlord was doing; which they assured me was not working, and would'nt.

I tried to hire this company to come treat my apartment at my cost. The company needed approval from the landlord prior to treatment.

landlord refused to consider this option, and continued to have apartment treated ineffectively by the company that she had been using.

My rent payment being the only leverage I had, I made it clear to the landlord that I couldnt live there under the present conditions, and refused to pay rent until it was the safe, livable apartment she agreed to provide.

She retaliated with an eviction. The court date was for September 10, 2015; and I had court involving a custody matter in another court in another county the same day/time.

After advising the attorney representing the landlord, that I was unable to be in court at that time, they objected to a continuance; and the landlord won a default judgement based only on the fact that I was unable to be in court.

To date, my apartment is still infested, I have a child in Portland H.S.; and we have limited options for other housing.

I have offered both the landlord and her counsel to refund my money, and I would move out. They initially declined; it is unclear if they still maintain this position.

Please advise me on what steps I can take moving forward. I sent an email v. calling so the information is written down and as clear as possible.

Thank you for addressing this issue.

Jennifer Goodwin

tenant - 525 Washington Ave. #3

207-502-3576

