

Housing Advice Centre



A BPTRG SERVICE

Press Release

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RECORD DAMAGES AWARDED TO VICTIM OF UNLAWFUL EVICTION

At a hearing on Friday 9 November at Willesden County Court, landlord Zeev Meizels was ordered to pay a total of just under £20,000.00 in compensation (plus costs) for illegally evicting his tenant.

The tenant, was evicted from his Kilburn home in September last year. He came home from work to find that the locks to the front door of the building he lived in had been changed without warning and his belongings had been left in plastic bags by the bin on a busy street.

Ronald Daley, solicitor at Brent Private Tenants' Rights Group (BPTRG) who was acting for the tenant, commented, *"This is the highest award of damages BPTRG has achieved for a client and was entirely justified, given the nature of the offence. Our client lost many of his belongings, some of which were presents with a sentimental value which cannot be quantified in financial terms. He also faced a number of nights sleeping rough in the weeks after the illegal*

eviction. The whole experience was very negative for him and had a damaging effect on his health. ”

Jacky Peacock, Director of BPTRG added, *“There are a growing number of rogue landlords prepared to exploit the housing crisis which forces thousands to rely on private renting. The situation is likely to become even worse when the huge cuts in welfare benefits next year impact of low income families who will struggle to pay the rent. We hope that this court judgement will send a message to all landlords that they cannot take the law into their own hands by harassing tenants and throwing them onto the streets.”*

BPTRG’s Housing Advice Centre has a specialist team to advise private tenants. Tenants facing problems with their landlords should contact BPTRG’s Housing Advice Centre, 36-38 Willesden Lane, Kilburn, London NW6.

Telephone 020 7624 4327

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Note to editors

1) For further information about this case contact Ronald Daley – direct line 020 3002 2787 (**NOT FOR PUBLICATION !**)

2) From April 2013 the Government will be imposing an overall cap of the total welfare benefits families can claim. The cap will be £350 p.w. for single parents and £500 for couples. Both caps are regardless of how many children in the family.