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REPORT INTO MISSING BED – 102 NGATAI ST

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Intended Audience: NZ Police

Summary

I am the owner of a bed bequeathed to me by the previous owner of 102 Ngatai St, Taumarunui, but I received only the base. Zaney, the bed's original owner promised this to me, however the SPCA has received this as a donation (from an unknown third party) and has consistently ignored requests to give it to me, the rightful owner.

Background

In early 2020 I helped the new owner of 102 Ngatai St, Taumarunui (a friend called Mike, 0276061326) and befriended the previous owner (Zaney) and her parents (Clay & Etara, 79-81 Golf Rd, Taumarunui). I was gifted two bed sets and took possession of one blue-grey bed complete and the base only of one blue bed.

Zaney promised me the rest of the bed which was in storage with her tenants but I never received anything and 'it' appeared to "go missing".

Communications

On or about Thursday 29 October 2020, I met Etara in the SPCA op-shop in the Taumarunui Arcade and she identified two of the missing bed pieces for sale in the SPCA shop. She identified the bed by two factors: 1. The strong blue colour and 2. The unusual curved shape on the headboard.

Etara and I returned to the shop and spoke to the staff who said that it had been there a long time and that they did not know where it had come from. We explained what we had thought had happened, laying claim to the bed top and tail and then obtained the manager's contact details when referred to her.

At 9:52 on Friday 30 October 2020 I emailed Debbie at <taumarunui.info@spca.nz> the following:

SUBJECT: The Bed

Hi Debbie

As discussed, herewith confirmation that the two blue bed ends in your store were promised to me and are arguably mine.

The background is that a long time ago I helped the owner who gave me the bed base and she promised me the head and tail units that you have ended up with. At the time she lived near me.

Because it was a gift I couldn't chase up her demanding that I get them and it appears as though her tenants have dropped them off to you sometime.

Yesterday I was in store with Etara (the original owner's mother) and she identified them as the "missing" pieces. I already have the base down here at Matapuna

It is a little unusual as the base fits by way of screws, not the usual triangle unit

Could you please kindly put them aside for me or at least not sell them until the ownership matters are resolved?

Technically the goods have been stolen but I don't really want to involve the authorities in this matter. Thanks heaps!

Not hearing anything further from Debbie, I went into the SPCA store early last week and spoke with Debbie and her staff with a customer present. I asked to be able to take them (they were still in store at the same place) and twice Debbie refused to give them to me and she twice told me that I could buy them. I explained that I did not want to have to take the matters further but that "we have a problem" that both of us need to sort out and invited her to validate my position. She eventually agreed to speak to her supervisor. In this conversation she reported that (subsequent to receiving my email) "they" (the SPCA) had no records of where the bed had come from nor when.

Not hearing anything further from Debbie, today I went instore again. The bed had gone. A staff member told me that Debbie was not there; was "unlikely to give it to me" and suggested to me that "the bed had probably been sold".

Fact Validation

Validation of facts can be obtained from Zaney or her mother Etara. Etara has confirmed that she is happy for me to refer Police to her.

SPCA Conduct

The SPCA has been given months to resolve the matter and has failed to entertain even any basic communication professionally.

They have refused to validate my legitimate ownership in the face of multiple direct notifications of their receipt of claimed stolen property.

If they have subsequently disposed of the disputed goods then this has shown bad-faith conduct and IMHO represents a wilful crime under Section 246 of the Crimes Act 1961 by the manager of SPCA Taumarunui.

The SPCA is not required to hold a secondhand dealers license being a charity, but the Taumarunui SPCA would normally have failed to comply with an obligation to report and hold goods known or suspected to be stolen goods to the NZ Police as required to do so under Section 39 of the Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act 2004.