

05 February 2024

ICANN Final Determination

Re: Notice of Registry Operator Request for Termination of Registry Agreement - .guardian

On 28 November 2023, The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America notified ICANN org of its intent to terminate the .guardian Registry Agreement entered into on 30 July 2015. Pursuant to Section 4.4(b) of the Registry Agreement, Registry Operator may terminate the Registry Agreement for any reason upon one hundred eighty (180) calendar day advance notice.

Pursuant to the terms of Section 4.5 of the Registry Agreement (as modified by Section 6 of Specification 13 for this .Brand TLD), ICANN org consulted with The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America to assess whether to transition operation of the .guardian top-level domain (TLD) to a successor Registry Operator.

On 14 December 2023, ICANN org made a preliminary determination that operation of the .guardian TLD need not be transitioned to a successor Registry Operator based on the following rationale:

1. .guardian qualifies as a .Brand TLD.
2. Transitioning the TLD is not necessary to protect the public interest.

On 13 January 2024, after a 30-day period for comments by interested parties, no comments were received. Pursuant to Section 4.4(b) of the Registry Agreement, ICANN org will proceed to terminate the .guardian Registry Agreement by 26 May 2024.

In conformance with Section 4.5 of the Registry Agreement (as modified by Section 6 of Specification 13 for this .Brand TLD), ICANN org may not delegate the TLD to a successor registry operator for a period of two years without Registry Operator's consent, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed.

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Xavier Calvez  
Chief Financial Officer  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)