

30 July 2026

Via Email

Patrick S Kane
Senior Vice President
Naming Services, VeriSign, Inc.

RE: Removal of Defensive Registrations Service for the .NAME Generic Top-Level Domain ("gTLD")
(RSEP ID: #01601204)

In accordance with the Registry Services Evaluation Policy ("[RSEP](#)"), VeriSign, Inc. ("Verisign") submitted an [RSEP request](#) on 1 May 2026 seeking to discontinue the defensive registrations service for the .NAME gTLD ("Request"). Verisign indicates in their Request that upon discontinuation of the service, no new defensive registrations will be accepted for the .NAME TLD, current defensive registrations will be terminated, and the strings of defensive registrations will become generally available for registration. Verisign also indicated that the discontinuation of the service will be internally tested by Verisign prior to discontinuation. In the Request, and during the discussions with ICANN noted in the Request, Verisign explains the desire to discontinue the defensive registrations service to increase efficiency for the operation of the .NAME TLD. Verisign also noted in the Request that Verisign consulted with the registrars that manage the majority of the user base for the defensive registrations service regarding the discontinuation of this service, and that those registrars did not identify any security, stability or competition issues.

After evaluating the Request and relevant information, ICANN has determined that the Request did not raise significant security, stability or competition issues as defined in the RSEP. ICANN [approved](#) the Request on 21 May 2026. In light of the fact that Verisign and ICANN are in the process of discussing the upcoming renewal of the .NAME Registry Agreement, ICANN is issuing Verisign this letter in lieu of a contract amendment to the expiring Registry Agreement. This letter, which will also be posted on ICANN's RSEP Process webpage, provides public notice of the discontinuation of the service, provides information regarding the Request and ICANN's review of the Request, and allows Verisign to move forward with the removal of the defensive registrations service, with such removal to later be reflected in the finalized renewal of the .NAME Registry Agreement.

Verisign is free to discontinue the defensive registrations service as proposed in the Request. As set forth in the Request, Verisign will provide the following registrar notifications¹ regarding the discontinuation of this service:

1. Registry Operator (Verisign) will provide all registrars that support defensive registrations service with a minimum of 90 days prior notice of discontinuation of the service.

¹ With regard to communications with registrants, registrars manage the registrar-registrant relationship(s).

2. Registry Operator (Verisign) will provide an additional reminder notice to all registrars that support defensive registrations service at least 30 days prior to discontinuation of the service.
3. Registry Operator (Verisign) will provide all registrars that support defensive registrations service with customer service support throughout the process.

Sincerely,



Amanda Fessenden

Vice President, GDD Accounts and Services

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers