

12 May 2023

ICANN Preliminary Determination

Re: Notice of Registry Operator Request for Termination of Registry Agreement -
.northwesternmutual Top-Level Domain

On 12 April 2023, Northwestern Mutual Registry, LLC notified ICANN org of its intent to terminate the .northwesternmutual Registry Agreement entered into on 18 June 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 the Specification 13 (.Brand TLD Provisions), ICANN org consulted with Northwestern Mutual Registry, LLC to assess whether to transition operation of the .northwesternmutual top-level domain (TLD) to a successor Registry Operator.

Subject to an ongoing evaluation, ICANN org has made a preliminary determination that operation of the .northwesternmutual TLD need not be transitioned to a successor Registry Operator. ICANN org's review and determinations regarding transition to a successor registry are subject to Section 4.5 of the Registry Agreement (as modified for a .Brand TLD).

ICANN org's preliminary determination to not transition the TLD to a successor Registry Operator is based on the following rationale:

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

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

Before releasing its final determination, ICANN org will consider input provided by interested parties via email at ra-termination-comments@icann.org. The deadline to submit input is 11 June 2023 – 23:59 UTC.

Theresa Swinehart
SVP, Global Domains and Strategy
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)