

Code of Conduct Exemption Request Form



2 February 2017

Attn: New gTLD Program Staff
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers ("ICANN")

12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300
Los Angeles, California 90094

RE: Request for Exemption from Registry Operator Code of Conduct

Pontificium Consilium de Communicationibus Socialibus ("Registry Operator"), in connection with the execution of the Registry Agreement for the .catholic TLD (the "Registry Agreement"), hereby requests an exemption from the obligations of the Registry Operator Code of Conduct set forth in Specification 9 to the Registry Agreement (the "Code of Conduct"). Pursuant to such request, Registry Operator confirms that each of the following statements is true and correct (collectively, referred to as the "Statements"):

- 1 All domain name registrations in the TLD are registered to, and maintained by, Registry Operator for the exclusive use of Registry Operator or its Affiliate (as defined in the Registry Agreement);
- 2 Registry Operator does not sell, distribute or transfer control or use of any registrations in the TLD to any third party that is not an Affiliate of Registry Operator; and
- 3 Application of the Code of Conduct to the TLD is not necessary to protect the public interest for the following reasons:
 - a The Pontificium Consilium de Communicationibus Socialibus (PCCS) will operate the TLD according to its mission and purpose - to share the teachings, message and values of the Catholic Church with its own members and with the wider global community, by creating a dedicated, authoritative online space for the exclusive use of the Catholic Church and its constituent institutions, including dioceses, religious orders, institutes of consecrated life and organizations affiliated to the Catholic Church, and for the benefit of its adherents globally.
 - b The PCCS intends that the .catholic TLD will achieve the reputation of being an authoritative space for legitimate Church-related information provided by dioceses, religious orders, and other Church-affiliated institutions.
 - c Accordingly, all domain name registrations in the TLD will be registered to, and maintained by, the PCCS for their exclusive use and that of official Affiliate constituent institutions of the Church.
 - d Therefore, application of the Code of Conduct is not necessary for the protection of registrants, third parties, or the public interest.

Registry Operator represents that the registration policies attached hereto as Schedule A are a true and correct copy of the Registry Operator's registration policies for the TLD. Registry Operator agrees to notify ICANN promptly in writing in the event any of the Statements has become untrue (whether before or after an exemption has been granted). Registry Operator further acknowledges and agrees that the Exemption will be void if at any time any of the Statements has become untrue.

Submitted by:



Position: *Secretary*

Date Noted: *15/02/2017*

Email:



Schedule A

Registry Operator hereby acknowledges that the following are the true and correct registration policies for the TLD:

Eligibility

The purpose of this section is to describe the eligibility requirements for registering a domain name in the TLD.

Mission and purpose of the TLD

The mission and purpose of the TLD is to share the teachings, message and values of the Catholic Church (the 'Church') with its own members and with the wider global community, by creating a dedicated, authoritative online space for the exclusive use of the Church and its constituent institutions, including dioceses, religious orders, institutes of consecrated life and organizations affiliated to the Church, and for the benefit of its adherents globally.

The TLD will serve as an important method of communication for the Church, by establishing a formal and official channel for online communications via the appropriate channels of the Church. This function of the TLD is consistent with the Church's core activities, as communication is important in the life of the Church insofar as it facilitates the sharing of information and helps build a sense of community and belonging amongst its adherents.

The TLD will complement the Church's long established global network of communications activities including print and digital media, television and radio.

Eligibility requirements

To support the mission and purpose of the TLD, all domain name registrations in the TLD will be registered to, and maintained by us for our exclusive use and that of the constituent institutions of the Church.

We will be displayed as the Registrant Contact in the Registry WHOIS Service.

We will not sell, distribute or transfer control or use of any registration in the TLD to any third party that is not identified within the TLD, as such, individual adherents will not be eligible to register or be granted use of domain names in the TLD.

Use of a domain name within the TLD may be granted, at our sole discretion, to an affiliate such as recognised dioceses, religious orders and other Church-affiliated institutions. We maintain a list of affiliates formally recognised by the Holy See as being part of the Catholic Church and thus being eligible to be granted use of a domain name within the TLD. This list is primarily based on, however not exclusively, on the *Annuario Pontificio*, the official annual directory of all institutions related to the Holy See.

All domain names, and their subsequent use, must be consistent with the mission and purpose of the TLD as determined by us at our sole and absolute discretion.

Monitoring and review

We may take certain steps to substantiate whether the use of a domain name meets the requirements described in our policy.

Where we determine that:

- the eligibility requirements described in this policy are not met; or
- the domain name or its use is not consistent with the mission and purpose of the TLD;
- we may in our absolute discretion cancel, lock, place on hold, transfer or delete the domain name.

Application of the Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy

Any person or entity may challenge a Registrant's eligibility in accordance with our Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy.

Our rights and responsibilities

We reserve the right to deny any request for, or Application for, a domain name, or cancel, lock, place on hold, transfer, delete, or take any other action on any domain name or transaction that we deem necessary, in our sole discretion:

- 1 to protect the integrity and stability of the Service;
- 2 to comply with our obligations to ICANN;
- 3 to comply with any applicable laws, government rules or requirements, requests of law enforcement, or in compliance with any dispute resolution policies or process;
- 4 to avoid any liability, civil or criminal, on our part, as well as our affiliates, subsidiaries, officers, directors, employees and subcontractors;
- 5 to ensure compliance with the Published Policies;
- 6 to stop or prevent any violations of any terms and conditions of the Customer Registration Agreement;
- 7 for the non-payment to us of any fee; or
- 8 to correct mistakes made by us, any Registrar or any of our service providers in connection with an Application for a domain name, or a domain name.