

Topic: Plural Distinguishable

Question by: Carol Fischer

Jurisdiction: Missouri

Date: 30 June 2011

Jurisdiction	Question(s)
	<p>For those states that use distinguishable upon the record for business naming standards, does the addition of the letter “S” (going from singular to plural--“Three Oaks Farm” and “Three Oaks Farms”) make the two names distinguishable?</p>
Manitoba	
Corporations Canada	
Alabama	
Alaska	
Arizona	
Arkansas	
California	<p>California's name standard for corporations and limited liability companies is a "deceptively similar" standard and the plural would not make these names acceptable if they were corporations or limited liability companies.</p> <p>California's standard for limited partnerships is a "distinguishable on the record" standard and the plural would make it distinguishable assuming they had a limited partnership ending and were in fact a limited partnership. We have very few exceptions when looking at limited partnership "distinguishable on the records" standards: we don't consider entity ending, punctuation or spacing distinguishable.</p> <p>Here is a link to our name guidelines: http://www.sos.ca.gov/business/be/forms/name-guidelines-restrictions.pdf</p>
Colorado	<p>The names would be distinguishable in Colorado.</p>
Connecticut	
Delaware	

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District of Columbia	In the District of Columbia we will not consider the name distinguishable by merely adding “s”.
Florida	In Florida plural or possessive “s” does not make a name distinguishable from another name. In this example, the names would not be distinguishable.
Georgia	
Hawaii	
Idaho	Adding an “s” makes the names distinguishable.
Illinois	
Indiana	
Iowa	
Kansas	In Kansas we consider these distinguishable. The plural form of the word is distinguishable from the singular word.
Kentucky	
Louisiana	Louisiana uses distinguishable as a guideline (not distinguishable on the record) and we would conflict Three Oaks Farm and Three Oaks Farms. Plural does not make a name distinguishable.
Maine	The "s" makes it distinguishable on the record in Maine; we'd file both Three Oaks Farm and Three Oaks Farms.
Maryland	
Massachusetts	
Michigan	
Minnesota	
Mississippi	
Missouri	

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Montana	In Montana, plurals do not make the name distinguishable on our records.
Nebraska	Nebraska uses the “deceptively similar” standard.
Nevada	For the purposes of filing in our office, the "s" makes it distinguishable on the record.
New Hampshire	They would not be distinguishable in New Hampshire.
New Jersey	
New Mexico	
New York	Not distinguishable.
North Carolina	In North Carolina, adding an "s" makes the name distinguishable.
North Dakota	
Ohio	Ohio does not find these names to be distinguishable. (See ORC 1701.05).
Oklahoma	
Oregon	Not distinguishable.
Pennsylvania	
Rhode Island	Rhode Island has distinguishable upon the record, but pluralizing a word is deemed "not distinguishable" within our guidelines. Earlier this month legislation was passed to allow our office to promulgate rules and regulations to further define "distinguishable upon the record."
South Carolina	
South Dakota	
Tennessee	
Texas	

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Utah	Not distinguishable.
Vermont	
Virginia	Yes, the “s” makes the two names distinguishable.
Washington	Not distinguishable.
West Virginia	
Wisconsin	In Wisconsin, the plural does not make the name distinguishable.
Wyoming	

Additional comments:**Full text of email:**

Good afternoon! For those states that use distinguishable upon the record for business naming standards, does the addition of the letter “S” (going from singular to plural--“Three Oaks Farm” and “Three Oaks Farms”) make the two names distinguishable?

Thank you.

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