

Nightlight® Christian Adoptions
Oklahoma Adoption from Foster Care Program Description



GENERAL INFORMATION

Nightlight Christian Adoptions believes that every child deserves a loving, permanent family. When you decide to adopt a child from foster care, you become that family to a child who will never get to return to his biological family. Adoption from Foster Care is a program which allows these children a new opportunity for family. They have all been through the removal from home due to abuse and neglect, and dealing with the termination of the parental rights of their biological parents. In all cases of children in foster care, reunification is the initial goal. In many cases, parents are unable to make the changes needed to safely parent their children again. When parental rights are terminated by the Court, the children remain in foster care not knowing what their future will bring. An adoptive family can bring security, stability and new hope to a child for his/her future.

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

- Children that have experienced abuse and/or neglect
- Sibling groups
- Children with special needs: medical or emotional
- Children's ages typically range from 6-17 years
- Less frequently, younger children are available, generally special needs

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

Applicants must be at least 21 years old and the youngest parent must not be more than 45 years older than the child they are adopting. Adoptive parents can be single, married or divorced. Applicants must be married for a minimum of two years. Adoptive families must complete a home study and Nightlight's required pre-service training. Applicants must be in good physical and mental health to provide for the needs of the child, have sufficient income to meet current expenses, and be able to provide sufficient beds and bedrooms for additional children.

GENERAL PROCESS

This is a general overview of the process. Each state has its own laws and the timing and amount of services required will vary depending on the applicable state laws.

1. Apply to Nightlight Christian Adoptions
2. Complete a Program Orientation with Nightlight staff
3. Complete all required paperwork
4. Complete training and education requirements
5. Complete a home study with Nightlight and be approved for the placement of a child.
6. Along with Nightlight staff, search websites of adoptable children, including Nightlight's Adoption Bridge, AdoptUSKids, and websites of adoptable children in other states.

THE PLACEMENT PROCESS

1. When the worker or family identifies a child that is a potential match with the family, Nightlight will submit the family's home study to the worker representing that child. The designated worker will include the family in their group of potential families and will choose for the child, based on the worker's knowledge of the child's background and the family's preferences in a child.
2. When a potential match is made, the family will receive more information on the child and will participate in conference calls with the child's worker and other professionals involved in the child's case.
3. Given the more expansive information regarding the child, the family is asked to consider a decision and give an answer regarding matching with the child. If the family decides to move forward, Nightlight will be responsible for coordinating the plan for placement with the placing state and any contractual work needed to be put in place.
4. Once the family agrees on the match, they and the child will have an opportunity to meet and get acquainted. This process starts with a short meeting, and a second longer visit. If a positive relationship is established and the child and family commit to the match, then the sending state will seek approval with their ICPC office, and will also seek approval from the OK ICPC office.
5. After all state approvals are given, the child will be allowed to come to the family's home for a longer visit before the actual placement is approved and completed.
6. When the child is placed in the family's home, Nightlight will provide the post-placement supervision on a monthly basis and will report back to the placing state until the adoption is finalized.

Training/Education

- Bridge Resource Parent training from OKDHS
- Additional requirements as requested by placing state of the child

RESPONSIBILITIES

As an adoptive parent, you will be responsible for the following:

1. Working with the staff on viewing websites for adoptable children
2. Participating in Post adoption visits from Nightlight staff

COST

1. The fees for this program include the application fee, home study fee (and required clearances) and the program fee. The program fee covers the service provided by Nightlight throughout the process and includes contact with the placing state (generally a state child welfare office), participation in the meetings with the adoptive family and coordination of the communication between the workers of the other state and the adoptive family. Nightlight contracts with the other agency for the placement work and supervision during the placement until finalization. The fees are outlined in detail in the attached fee schedule.
2. Some families who adopt children placed from foster care are able to receive a stipend for needs beyond the scope of daily care, food and clothing. The stipends are determined by the needs of the child. A placement decision should not depend on a stipend—they cannot be guaranteed.

If you have any questions, please call our office: at 918-491-6767 or send us an e-mail at Debbien@nightlight.org

NIGHTLIGHT® CHRISTIAN ADOPTIONS
ADOPTION from FOSTER CARE PROGRAM– FEES AND ESTIMATED COSTS

PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
Application Phase		\$500	
Match Ready Phase		\$3,000	<i>Interagency Coordination (referrals, correspondence, profile distribution, arrangement for placement, etc.)</i>
Total Program Fee		\$3,500	
COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
Expenses		\$1,385-\$3,925	
<i>Home Study</i>	<i>\$1,300-2,500</i>		<i>Updated annually –varies by state</i>
<i>FBI Fingerprinting</i>	<i>\$50-90 (per parent)</i>		<i>Updated annually</i>
<i>Parent Education/Training</i>	<i>\$0-100</i>		<i>Estimated cost of required education –varies by state</i>
<i>Prepare & Enrich assessment per couple</i>	<i>\$35</i>		<i>Required for home study (one time)</i>
Potential Additional Expenses		\$650-\$1,270	
<i>Child Abuse Background Report for each additional state of residence in last five years</i>	<i>\$0-\$20</i>		<i>Required for any state you have resided in the past five years (updated annually only if you return to that state)</i>
<i>Home Study Update</i>	<i>\$650-\$1,250</i>		<i>Required if an adoptive placement has not occurred prior to original home study expiring – cost varies by state</i>
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENSES		\$2,035-\$4,995	
GRAND TOTAL		\$5,535-\$8,495	<i>Estimates may be higher. Range depends on factors such as the number of states you have resided in the past five years and if you require a home study update.</i>

Although we strive to maintain a predictable fee schedule, unexpected increase in our costs may necessitate an increase in fees. Therefore, fees may be increased upon 90-day notice.

Please initial this page that you have received a copy of this List of Fees and Estimated Costs.

Date: _____ **Foster/Adoptive Parents:** _____