

# **Nightlight® Christian Adoptions**

## **International Adoption Program Description**

### **Canadian Kinship Adoptions**

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Nightlight Christian Adoptions (NCA or Nightlight) has assisted families with the adoption of relatives in Canada. Both countries are signatories on the Hague Convention. In order for a US Citizen to adopt a relative from Canada, they must identify a US Hague Accredited adoption agency as their Primary Provider. Each Canadian Province has its own Central Authority, addressing Inter-Country adoption. Nightlight works with both the US and Canadian Central Authorities to assist families with kinship adoptions. The adoptive family must also complete a home study with a Hague accredited agency prior to the adoption process. Nightlight has 10 offices throughout the United States and can assist families in those States with their home study process as well. Otherwise, referrals can be provided to alternate local agencies. Although the majority of the time, the adoption is finalized in Canada prior to the child moving to the United States, on occasion, a guardianship is given and the adoption will need to be finalized in the US according to the State requirements where the family resides. These adoptions can take anywhere between 9-24 months. Further information about the adoption process in Canada can be reviewed on the US Department of State website, [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

#### **CHILDREN AVAILABLE**

- Relatives
- Meet the legal orphan definition

#### **ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT**

- Dependent on the requirements of the Canadian Province
- Applicants must be at least 25 years of age
- At least 18 years age difference between prospective adoptive parents and the adopted child.

#### **PROCESS**

1. Complete the NCA online application and Orientation with the NCA CA office.
2. Begin your Home Study
3. After your Home Study is complete, submit an I-800A form to USCIS with the assistance of the California NCA office.
4. Nightlight will work with the Central Authority in your region of Canada. Your Home Study will be submitted to the Canadian Authorities for review and approval to proceed with the adoption process.
5. The Canadian Authority will provide the referral to the family along with Nightlight as the Primary Provider Agency.
6. Nightlight Clinical staff will review the Child referral, medical, social and psychological reports with the adoptive family, with the understanding that the family has likely provided these documents to the staff member.
7. Although an attorney is not required, if you are considering working with an attorney in Canada, please discuss this with your program coordinator at Nightlight prior to engaging that attorney. If you are using an attorney in Canada, that in-country attorney will need to provide verification of license and good standing in their country. They will be required to sign documents with Nightlight verifying ethical standards.
8. Begin work on your dossier – the documents required for the adoption in Canada.
9. Canada requires a six-month minimum bonding period for the child or children to live with the prospective adoptive family.
10. The Bonding Period is conducted under the supervision of the Canadian Authority and Nightlight as the Primary Provide, with the local Home Study Provider completing Post Placement Visits throughout the Bonding Period. The first report is due within 72 hours of placement, and monthly thereafter, for a minimum of six months and through the finalization of the adoption.
11. During the Bonding Period, the Canadian Adoption Authority will verify the match with the child and prepare the Article 16 Report that provides information about the child for submission with the I-800 petition to USCIS for provisional approval for the child to immigrate to the U.S.
12. After provisional approval of the I-800A, you will submit a visa application to the U.S. Consulate General in Canada that is responsible for issuing immigrant visas to children from Canada.
13. Once the immigration documents are provisionally approved, Nightlight staff will work with you on obtaining the necessary documents to complete your I-800 application.
14. Nightlight will instruct you in filing the I-800 with USCIS.
15. The Consular Officer will send the Article 5 letter to the Provincial Central Authority in Canada verifying that all Convention requirements are met and the Consular Officer has determined that the child appears eligible to immigrate to the U.S. The letter

informs the Provincial Central Authority in Canada that the prospective parents are eligible and suited to adopt, and the U.S. Central Authority agrees that adoption may proceed.

16. Do not attempt to obtain custody of a child or finalize the adoption prior to the U.S. Consular Officer issuing the Article 5 letter.
17. If you complete a guardianship rather than a “full and final adoption” in Canada, you will receive a provisional approval to bring your child home under the guardianship, with the understanding you will finalize the adoption under U.S. law once you return home with your child. If possible, it is preferable to have a “full and final adoption” finalized in Canada as it will be recognized in the U.S.
18. After the approval from U.S. Immigration, the parents will finalize the adoption in the U.S. state of residence.
19. Upon finalizing their adoption, the family will travel to Canada to obtain an Immigrant Visa for their child. Typically, this trip is from 1-3 weeks and includes filing the adoption paperwork and obtaining the U.S. Immigrant Visa to return to the U.S.
20. Once you arrive home, you will notify Nightlight and provide all adoption documents to the Nightlight CA office.

## TRAVEL & ADOPTION

- Some countries require an official referral and bonding trip. While in Canada, you may be monitored by social services handling the adoption in the Province.
- If only guardianship was given, upon arriving back in the U.S. you will need to complete a legal US adoption if your child entered the country under a IR4 VISA and guardianship. Once you have completed the legal adoption, you can apply for Citizenship for your child.

## POST ADOPTION

The post adoption reporting requirements vary between countries. Those countries that have a required bonding period in country, tend to have fewer post placement or post adoption reporting requirements once the family returns to the US. If the adoption was not finalized in Canada, your home study agency will need to be contacted, to finalize your child’s adoption in the US. Typically, 2-4 visits are required.

After each adoption is completed and the child is home, a minimum of three *post-adoption/post placement reports* must be conducted. It is expected that you will continue to work with your home study provider on the post adoption/post placement reports following your placement or adoption. Your home study provider will be visiting you at specified times following your adoption to provide consultation on adjustment, help you to identify or problem solve any issues that have arisen, and to write up a report that is sent along with photos of your child, back to NCA for dissemination back to the necessary authorities in Canada.

Once your child is placed in your home from Canada, the number and timing of the reports will be determined by the court. Each Province will determine the number of required post placement visits to be completed by the home study provider, while the family is completing the required bonding period. They may also require additional visits following the finalization of the adoption. It is expected that you will continue to work with your home study social worker on these reports. Your social worker will be visiting you at specified times during the placement, to provide consultation on adjustment, help you to identify or problem solve any issues that have arisen and to write up a report that is sent along with photos of your child, back to the Provincial Central Authority in Canada.

Please contact Nightlight Christian Adoptions if you have any questions about this process. You will be provided with more specific information about post adoption reporting and dates, along with reminders, following the completion of your adoption and the arrival of your child in your home. If you change residences, email or phone numbers, before or following your adoption, please contact our office and let us know about these changes.

The completion of post adoption/post placement reporting to the child’s country of origin is critical to the continuation of inter-country adoption. A late report can have devastating consequences as other children from that area are prevented from being adopted until a late report has been turned into the authorities. Please assist us in this area by your timely compliance.

## COSTS

The cost for the Primary Provider part of a Canadian Kinship adoption is \$6,000. There is a \$500 application fee and then the program fee of \$5500. There is an additional ‘Monitoring and Oversight’ fee of \$500 per child being adopted, to cover the Accrediting Entity, the organization designated by the US Department of State to oversee intercountry adoptions. Although Nightlight will collect this fee, the full fee is paid directly to IAAME, as the Accrediting Entity. These fees do not cover the expenses for the country attorney, travel, documents or communication.

For further information please contact Rhonda Jarema, at [Rhonda@nightlight.org](mailto:Rhonda@nightlight.org) or call at (714) 693-5437



nightlight®  
christian adoptions

...because every child deserves a loving family

Domestic • International • Snowflakes Embryo Adoption • Adoption Homestudies • Hague Accredited



## Getting Started CHECKLIST

### 1. Fill out Application Documents

- Fill out the Online Application here:  
[https://nightlight.mysamdb.com/SAM/Fm/ApplicationFormPart1\\_Nightlight\\_Edt.aspx](https://nightlight.mysamdb.com/SAM/Fm/ApplicationFormPart1_Nightlight_Edt.aspx)
- Read and Sign the Agreement for International Adoption Services.  
[https://nightlight.mysamdb.com/SAM/Fm/AgreementforInternationalAdoptionServices\\_Edt.aspx](https://nightlight.mysamdb.com/SAM/Fm/AgreementforInternationalAdoptionServices_Edt.aspx)
- Read and Sign the Statement of Risks Waiver
- Read and Sign the "Policy & Procedure" Form
- Upload your family photo
- Pay the application fee

*\*Please Note: Keep the Complaint form for your records; you may want to make a copy of the Policy & Procedure to also keep for your records.*

### 2. Complete your Orientation

Once we review and accept your Application materials, we will send you an acceptance letter via e-mail. Shortly after that you will receive an invoice for the orientation phase and then begin your orientation with your adoption advisor.

### 3. Obtain a Home Study

- **If you live in Nightlight's licensed area**, we will perform your home study. Once your application is approved, your adoption advisor will notify you how to get started on your home study with one of our Nightlight offices.
- **If you are out of Nightlight's licensed area**, we will help you find a local agency.

Please read our [FAQs](#) before submitting your application. If you have any questions please call our office: at 714-693-5437 or send us an e-mail at [rhonda@nightlight.org](mailto:rhonda@nightlight.org) .

ATTACHMENT A  
NIGHTLIGHT® CHRISTIAN ADOPTIONS  
INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS – FEES AND ESTIMATED COSTS  
Canada Kinship Adoption Fees

PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
<b>Application Phase</b>		\$500	<i>Due with application</i>
<b>Monitoring and Oversight fee charged by accrediting entity. Per child</b>		\$500	<i>Due upon signing the Agreement for International Services</i>
<b>Nightlight Program fee #1</b>		\$2,000	<i>Due upon acceptance</i>
<b>Nightlight Program fee #2</b>		\$2,000	<i>Due at completion of home study</i>
<b>Nightlight Program fee #3</b>		\$1,500	<i>Due upon approval of I-800A</i>
<b>Total Program Fee</b>		<b>\$6,500</b>	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
<b>U.S.-Based Fees</b>		\$9,070 – \$13,470	
<i>Home Study</i>	<i>\$1,500-\$3000</i>		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Post Placement reports &amp; court report</i>	<i>\$4000</i>		<i>\$400 per PA or PP report with the Canadian Authorities requiring up to 10 reports (weekly over the 10 week bonding period pre-adoption)</i>
<i>Home study supporting documents</i>	<i>\$225</i>		<i>Cost for criminal clearances, obtaining physicals, and other misc. expenses</i>
<i>Parent Education/Training</i>	<i>\$100-\$300</i>		<i>Estimated cost of in-person or online education courses</i>
<i>Home Study Review Fee</i>	<i>\$300</i>		<i>Review of home study prepared by an agency other than Nightlight</i>
<i>USCIS Fees</i>	<i>\$945</i>		<i>Includes I-800A application &amp; biometrics for 2 adults</i>
<i>Adoption Finalization</i>	<i>\$2,000-\$5,000</i>		<i>Costs vary by state/attorney</i>
<b>Other In-Country Adoption Costs</b>		\$5,839 – \$14,539	
<i>Airfare (2 adults)</i>	<i>\$2,000-\$5,000</i>		
<i>Airfare for child (one way)</i>	<i>\$400-\$600</i>		<i>Depends on the child's age.</i>
<i>In Country Travel and Accommodations</i>	<i>\$1,000-\$2,500</i>		<i>Estimated for 7 days in country</i>
<i>Medical exam, immunization costs, TB screening, birth certificate, passport, etc.</i>	<i>\$209</i>		
<i>Child's visa</i>	<i>\$230</i>		<i>Depend on child's age</i>
<i>Attorney costs (estimated)</i>	<i>\$2,000-\$6,000</i>		
<b>Total Other Costs (Est.)</b>		<b>\$14,909 – \$28,009</b>	
<b>TOTAL FEES &amp; ESTIMATED EXPENSES</b>			
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$21,409 – \$34,509</b>	

The cost of operating an international adoption program is substantial and increasing with the additional compliance requirements under the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption. The nature of international adoption makes it impossible to predict the exact costs you will incur, but we believe the estimates above are realistic. 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. Program fees are paid in phases and are non-refundable. Nightlight establishes a budget for costs each year based on the number of adoptions it estimates completing, as well as revenue from grants and donations. Based on these estimates, we establish program fees to cover the costs of attorneys, facilitators, social workers, insurance, and other costs we incur. Of course it would be prohibitive to allocate all of the costs (payroll, rent, insurance, supplies, travel, etc) to one adoption in one program.

**Please initial on both this page and the following page that you have received a copy of this List of Fees and Estimated Costs.**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Adopting Parents:** \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment B  
 Nightlight Christian Adoptions  
 INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS – FEES AND ESTIMATED COSTS  
**Canada**

<b>SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAUGE REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>Canada</b>
Home Study (including estimated out of pocket costs)	\$1,500 – \$3,000
Adoption expenses in the US (includes personnel costs, administrative overhead, operational costs, training and education, communications and publications costs and other costs associated with providing adoption services in the US)	\$6,500
Foreign country program expenses (includes personnel costs, administrative overhead, operational costs, training and education, communications and publications costs and other costs associated with providing adoption services in the child's convention country) <b>Often covered in full by the Canadian Authorities.</b>	\$0
Care of the child (the expected total fees and estimated expenses charged to PAP's for the care of the child in the country of origin prior to adoption, including, but not limited to costs for food, clothing, shelter, medical care, foster care, orphanage care and other services provided DIRECTLY to the child. <b>Covered by the local authorities with guardianship over the child.</b>	\$0
Translation and Document Expenses: the expected total fees and estimated expenses for obtaining any necessary documents, translation of documents related to the adoption and information on whether the PAP's will pay costs directly or to a 3rd party either in the US or Convention country or through the agency. Category includes but is not limited to, costs for obtaining, translating, copying records or documents required to complete the adoption, costs for Convention court documents, passport, adoption certificate and other documents related to the adoption, costs for notarization and certifications.	\$1,446
Contributions: any fixed contribution amount or percentage that the PAP expected or required to make to child protection or child welfare service programs in the Child's convention country or in the US along with an explanation of the intended use of the contribution and the manner in which the transaction will be recorded and accounted for.	\$0
Post placement (PP) and post adoption (PA) reports: the expected total fees and estimated expenses for any PP or PA reports that the agency or parents must prepare to comply with requirements of the expected country of origin (and NCA requirements)	\$4,000

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