

# Nightlight® Christian Adoptions

## International Adoption Program Description

### Honduras



#### GENERAL INFORMATION

Honduras is a Central American country with Caribbean Sea coastlines to the north and the Pacific Ocean to the south. The Capital is Tegucigalpa; the main language is Spanish although native tribes speak their native languages.

Adoptions in Honduras are completed through a collaborative effort that includes a Honduran attorney working directly with the Honduran Central Authority called Dirección de Ninez, Adolescencia y Familia translation The Department of Children, Adolescents, and Family (DINAF), the government agency that authorizes all domestic and international adoptions. DINAF ensures that the child is eligible for adoption and no biological family members are willing and able to care for the child.

The following websites are a useful place to start for reading more about Honduras adoption and the country:

- <https://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/country-information/learn-about-a-country/honduras.html> U.S. State Department page about Honduras adoption
- <https://honduras.travel/en/>: Honduras Tourism

#### CHILDREN AVAILABLE

- Honduran children available for adoption range from 2 years of age to pre-teens.
- More boys than girls are available and families will need to be open to either gender.
- Children are either Caucasian or of Hispanic ancestry.

#### ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

- Married couples and single women may adopt from Honduras.
- Applicants must be between 25 and 60 and must be at least 15 years older than the child they wish to adopt.
- Married couples must be married a minimum of 3 years and Honduras will accept no more than 2 divorces per applicant.

#### PROCESS

1. Make application to Nightlight Christian Adoptions.
2. Complete all Nightlight application paperwork and a Hague adoption home study.
3. Prepare an I-800A application and be granted approval by the United State Citizenship & Immigration Service (USCIS). In the most basic terms, this process grants a pre-approval for you to bring an orphaned child into the U.S. as a citizen.
4. Gather documents which will go through a certification and authentication process to become your dossier. (We will help you through the certification and authentication process.) This step can be worked on concurrently with the Home Study.
5. Submit a letter of intent and your Dossier to DINAF through Nightlight's attorney.
6. Once your completed dossier is submitted to Honduras' Central Adoption Authority (DINAF), it will be evaluated by the General Secretary of DINAF. After the General Secretary's approval, your file is presented to the DINAF adoption committee who will match you with a child.
7. The matching process usually takes 24 months to 36 months after the dossier is submitted. The younger the child you wish to adopt, the longer the wait for a referral. The wait time is shortened if you are adopting a waiting child.
8. After you are given a match from DINAF, you will complete official referral review with Nightlight's Social Services Department
9. Upon acceptance of the referral, Nightlight will process and submit the I-800. You will be granted approval by USCIS. This process grants approval for the adoption to move forward and gives permission for the child to immigrate into the U.S.

after the adoption is completed.

10. You will then be invited to travel to Honduras to meet with the social worker and psychologist at DINAF and to meet and bond with the child. This trip is approximately 7 - 10 days.
11. The attorney in Honduras will work with the U.S. Embassy, DINAF, and the court to assist in processing of your adoption.
12. The court process takes 2 to 3 months.
13. After the court process, a birth certificate and passport will be obtained and the adoption will be registered in Honduras.
14. You will then travel to Honduras to receive definitive custody of the child and request a VISA interview with the US Embassy. Finally, you will bring your child home. The trip will take approximately 2 weeks.
15. Please note that all timelines are estimates and may vary.

## TRAVEL & ADOPTION

There are two trips required for adoptions from Honduras. The first trip is approximately 7-10 days. The second trip is typically 2 weeks in length. The attorney will pick you up from the airport, accompany you to all appointments, and accompany you to the airport at your departure.

## POST ADOPTION

Within 30 days of your arrival home, you must have a home visit by your home study provider. Your first written report will be required 3 months after the child comes home. Additionally, your home study provider will prepare post-adoption reports and submit them to Nightlight each quarter in the first year you are home and twice per year in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year you arrive home, and then once per year until your child is 18 years of age. These reports include your child's developmental progress and pictures. This is a very serious commitment; Nightlight is committed to showing DINAF and birth families that children adopted by US citizens are healthy and well cared for. Compliance with post adoption reports is also required by Honduras. Therefore, Nightlight charges a fee to monitor and process these post adoption reports and also requires families to pay for the cost of the post adoption report in advance. There is also a fee for translation of the adoption reports and shipment of the apostilled post adoption reports that must be paid at the time of accepting a referral.

## COSTS

The program fee for a Honduras adoption is \$14,500. Your additional costs will include home study, USCIS approval, notary & apostille fees, airfare, hotel, in country guide, and embassy fees as shown on the fee schedule. Your out-of-pocket expenses may further be reduced if you receive scholarships, grants or employer-provided adoption benefits. For additional fee information please see Exhibit A.

Please contact Lisa Whitaker at [lisaw@nightlight.org](mailto:lisaw@nightlight.org), or call our KY office (859-263-9964) with any questions.



### Getting Started CHECKLIST

#### **1. Fill out Application Documents**

- Fill out the Online Application
- Read and Sign the Agreement for International Adoption Services
- Read and Sign the Social Media Policy
- Read and Sign the Complaint Procedure
- Read and Sign the “No Healthy Child Letter”
- Read and Sign the Consent to Release Confidential Information
- Read and sign the Privacy Practices
- 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 502- 423-5780 or send us an e-mail at [info@nightlight.org](mailto:info@nightlight.org).

		Honduras	
PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
Application Phase		\$500	Due with application
Monitoring and Oversight fee charged by accrediting entity. Per child		\$500	Due upon signing the Agreement for International Services
Orientation Phase		\$2,500	Due upon receiving a Letter of Acceptance from Nightlight
Dossier Phase		\$5,000	
Nightlight Program Fee	\$2,500		
Foreign Fee #1	\$2,500		
Referral Phase		\$4,000	
Nightlight Program Fee	\$2,500		2 <sup>nd</sup> child fee is \$5,000; 3 <sup>rd</sup> child fee is \$3,500. All families must pay an additional \$500 M&O fee for each child they adopt
Foreign Fee #2	\$1,500		
Travel Phase		\$2,000	
Foreign Fee #3	\$2,000		Paid before travel to Honduras
Total Program Fee		\$14,500	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
U.S.-Based Fees		\$8,775 – \$16,620	
Home Study	\$1,500 - \$2,500		Costs vary by state/agency
Post Adoption Reports	\$2,400 - \$3,200		Costs vary by state/agency
Shipment and/or translating of post adoption reports	\$700 - \$2,000		Costs vary based on number of children you are adopting, due at referral phase.
Home study supporting documents	\$225		Cost for criminal clearances, obtaining physicals, and other misc. expenses
Parent Education/Training	\$100 - \$300		Estimated cost of online education courses
Home Study Review Fee	\$300		Review of home study prepared by an agency other than Nightlight
Home Study/USCIS update shipping and translation fees	\$0 - \$400		Pad to Nightlight when applicable.
USCIS Fees	\$945		Includes I-800A application fee and biometrics for 2 adults
Dossier Apostille	\$25 - \$500		Dossier will be apostilled through the secretary of state. Costs vary by state.
Dossier Shipping & Translation	\$2,000 - \$3,000		Paid to Nightlight when applicable.
Psychological Evaluation/2 parents	\$500 - \$1,500		Varies by Provider
Constancia & Post Adoption Letter obtained and certified by Nightlight	\$80		Constancia and Post Adoption Letter from Nightlight – obtained and authenticated
Medical Review of Referral	\$0 - \$500		Some physicians do not charge for this service. Other international clinics will charge a fee for this.
Certificate of Citizenship (COC)	\$0 - \$1,170		Applies to families in guardianship countries, families living abroad, families coming home on an IR-4 Visa. Not applicable in some countries.
Other In-Country Adoption Costs		\$8,100 – \$14,950	Estimates are for 2 people and 1 trip
Airfare (2 adults)	\$2,500 - \$3,500		
Airfare for child (one way)	\$400 - \$2,000		Depends on the child's age.
In country travel and accommodations	\$4,000 - \$6,000		Based on 3-5 month stay for 2 adults
Medical exam, immunization costs, TB screening, birth certificate, passport, etc.	\$275 - \$575		
Attorney Abandonment Fees	\$0 - \$1,200		Due only in cases where attorney must work the abandonment process
In region facilitator/translator expenses	\$600 - \$1,100		
Travel expense for registering the adoptions	\$0 - \$250		Dependent on location
Child's visa	\$325		
Total Other Costs (Est.)		\$16,875 – \$31,570	
TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES			
GRAND TOTAL		\$31,375 - \$46,070	

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.

**A late fee of 12% annual (1% monthly) will be assessed for fees more than 30 days past due.**

**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

**Honduras**

<b>SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>Honduras</b>
Home Study (including estimated out of pocket costs)	\$1,725 - \$2,725
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)	\$8,500
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)	\$6,000
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.	\$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.	\$2,025 - \$3,900
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)	\$3,100 - \$5,200
Travel/Accommodation Expenses: Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$6,900 - \$11,500
Third Party Expenses: includes USCIS fees, courier services, in country guide, and child medical or visa costs if paid directly by the family rather than through Nightlight.	\$2,825 - \$8,245

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