

Nightlight® Christian Adoptions International Adoption Program Description

Latvia



GENERAL INFORMATION

Latvia is located in Europe and is situated between Lithuania and Estonia. The country borders the Baltic Sea and is notable for its wide sandy beaches, dense sprawling forests, and thousands of lakes and rivers. Aside from the country's natural beauty, a popular destination spot for tourist is Riga, which is the capitol of Latvia. The city houses over one third of Latvia's population and has plenty of interesting sites and attractions, including theaters, museums, and outdoor markets. Most local businesses cater to tourist and many of the people speak English. Latvia is party to The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague Adoption Convention). Therefore, all intercountry adoptions between Albania and the United States must meet the requirements of the Convention and U.S. law implementing the Convention.

Latvian adoptions are conducted through a collaborative effort of a Hague accredited adoption agency in the US and by the Latvian Central Adoption Authority (Ministry of Welfare).

If you are considering adopting from Latvia, please read the following information as required by The Hague Convention on International Adoptions.

Information on international adoptions from Latvia can be found at:

- <http://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/country-information/learn-about-a-country/latvia.html>: Information on international adoptions from Latvia on the U.S. Department of State web site
- <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5378.htm>: Information on the country of Latvia on the U.S. Department of State web site

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

- Both boys and girls are available
- Children over age 9 and up to age 15 are available
- Sibling groups of 3 or more children
- Children with severe health problems are available for adoption.
- Latvian children, in general, have fair skin and blond or brown hair.

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

The parents must be at least 25 years old, at least 18 years older than the child they are adopting and there are no upper age restrictions, although Nightlight in general considers it best that there be no more than 45 years between you, the parents, and your child. For older children, exceptions can be made. Married heterosexual couples and single women are accepted into the program.

PROCESS

1. Make application to Nightlight Christian Adoptions.
2. Begin your adoption home study and submit form I-800A to CIS.
3. Begin to assemble your dossier. We will give you detailed instructions.
4. Once USCIS has approved your adoption home study, you will receive your I-800A adoption approval.
5. Once your USCIS approval has been received your dossier is complete, you will be registered to adopt in Latvia.
6. The Latvian Central Authority will add you to a list of waiting families and it can take 6 to 24 months to receive a referral.
7. Complete official referral review with Nightlight's Social Services Department
8. Once your referral is received, you will travel to Latvia for about four weeks to meet your child and then be approved to take the child into your care

9. At the end of the 4 weeks stay, you will travel home with your child and continue the bonding period in the US
10. File I-800 form with USCIS
11. After the Article 5 is issued by the US Embassy in Riga, the adoption court hearing will be required to travel back to Latvia to attend the hearing. Children over ages 12 and older, are also required to travel and attend the hearing
12. No less than 40 days after the court hearing, at least one parent and the child(ren) will travel back to Latvia for the third and final time to obtain an immigration visa for their child.

TRAVEL & ADOPTION PROCESS

3 trips are required for adoption from Latvia. The first trip being the longest; about 4 weeks in duration. The second and third trips are about 3 days each. On your first trip you will meet the child you were referred and begin the required bonding period with them. You will be visited by a social worker from Orphans Court who will observe you binding and interactions with the child and then the social worker will make a recommendation to the court about continuing the adoption process. Then you and your child will return to the U.S. to continue the bonding period. One visit by your home study social worker will also be required at that time and the report they prepare will be submitted to the Latvian court. Once the finalization court hearing is scheduled only one parent may go on the second trip to attend the hearing. Children will be required to attend the hearing if they are ages 12 and over. Roughly 6-8 weeks later you and your adopted child will return to Latvia to file the child's adoption paperwork at the US Embassy and obtain the child's US Immigrant visa.

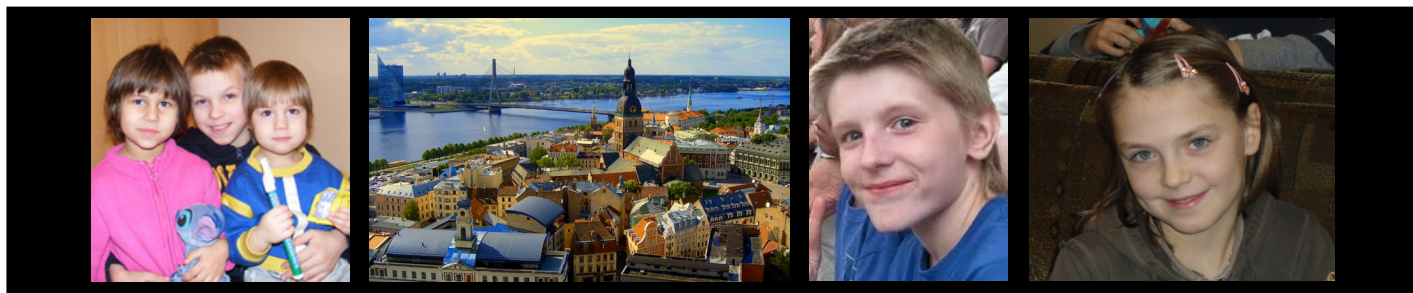
POST ADOPTION

Within 30 days of your arrival home, you must have a home visit by your home study provider. Your home study provider will prepare post-adoption reports and submit them to Nightlight at 6, 12, 18 and 24 months after the adoption is finalized, and then once a year until the child turns 18 years old. These reports include your child's developmental progress and pictures. This is a very serious commitment; Nightlight is committed to showing the Latvian Adoption Committee and birth families that children adopted by US citizens are healthy and well cared for. Compliance with post adoption reports is also required by the Hague Convention. 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 placement report in advance.

COSTS

The program fee for a Latvian adoption is \$19,500. 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 Lexis Knight, Lexis.knight@nightlight.org (317) 875-0058, with any questions.





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Domestic • Foster/Adopt • International • Snowflakes Embryo Adoption • Home Studies • Hague Accredited

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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.

ATTACHMENT A
NIGHTLIGHT® CHRISTIAN ADOPTIONS
INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS – FEES AND ESTIMATED COSTS

Latvia

PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
Application Phase		\$500	<i>Due with application</i>
Monitoring and Oversight fee charged by accrediting entity. Per child		\$500	<i>Due upon signing the Agreement for International Services</i>
Orientation Phase		\$2,500	<i>Due upon receiving a Letter of Acceptance from Nightlight</i>
Dossier Phase		\$8,500	<i>Due upon our receipt of your dossier</i>
Nightlight Fee	\$3,500		
Foreign Fee	\$5,000		
Referral Phase		\$7,500	<i>Due upon receiving invitation to travel</i>
Nightlight Fee	\$5,000		<i>\$7,750 for the 1st sibling, \$3,875 for the 2nd sibling</i>
Foreign Fee	\$2,500		
Total Program Fee		\$19,500	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
U.S.-Based Fees		\$5,570 – \$10,540	
Home Study	\$1,500 - \$2,500		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
Post Adoption Reports	\$900 - \$1,200		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
Shipping and/or translation of post adoption reports	\$1,200		<i>Costs may vary based on number of children you are adopting, due at referral phase</i>
Home study supporting documents	\$225		<i>Cost for criminal clearances, obtaining physicals, and other misc. expenses</i>
Parent Education/Training	\$100 - \$300		<i>Estimated cost of online education courses</i>
Home Study Review Fee	\$300		<i>Review of home study prepared by an agency other than Nightlight</i>
Home study/USCIS update shipping and translation fees	\$300 - \$1000		<i>Paid to Nightlight when applicable, costs depend on number of updates needed</i>
Psychological Evaluation/ 2 parents	\$0 - \$500		<i>Your Home Study agency or Nightlight may require in certain circumstances</i>
USCIS Fees	\$945		<i>Includes I-800A application & biometrics for 2 adults</i>
Dossier Shipping/Translation and Legalization in country	\$0		<i>Paid to the service provider through Nightlight, due at dossier phase</i>
Dossier Apostille/Authentication and courier fees	\$100 - \$1,000		<i>Paid to service providers</i>
Medical review of referral	\$0 - \$200		<i>Some physicians do not charge for this service. Other international clinics will charge a fee for this.</i>
Certificate of Citizenship (COC)	\$0 - \$1170		<i>Applies to families living abroad, families coming home on an IR4 visa.</i>
Other In-Country Adoption Costs		\$7,025 – \$8,200	<i>Estimates are for 2 people and 1 trip</i>
Airfare (2 adults)	\$2,600 - \$3,500		<i>Paid to Airline</i>
Airfare for child (one way)	\$750 - \$1,000		<i>Depends on the child's age.</i>
Lodging, meals, etc.	\$3,000		<i>Paid to service provider</i>
Child's Visa	\$475 - \$500		<i>Paid to US Embassy</i>
Child's Medical Exam	\$200		<i>Paid to the clinic in Riga</i>
Total Other Costs (Est.)		\$12,595 – \$18,740	
TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES			
GRAND TOTAL		\$32,095 – \$38,240	

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

Latvia

SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS	Latvia
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)	\$12,000
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)	\$5,000
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.	\$2,800 - \$3,500
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)	\$2,100 - \$2,400
Travel/Accommodation Expenses: Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$6,350 - \$ 7,500
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.	\$1,820 - \$5,115

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Date: _____ **Adopting Parents:** _____