

Nightlight® Christian Adoptions
International Adoption Program Description
Mexico



GENERAL INFORMATION

Mexico, officially the United Mexican States, is bordered by the United States to the north and Belize and Guatemala to the southeast. Mexico is about one-fifth the size of the United States. Baja California in the west is an 800-mile (1,287-km) peninsula that forms the Gulf of California. In the east are the Gulf of Mexico and the Bay of Campeche, which is formed by Mexico's other peninsula, the Yucatán. The center of Mexico is a great, high plateau, open to the north, with mountain chains on the east and west and with ocean-front lowlands beyond. It is the second most populous country in Latin America. Mexico is a federation comprising thirty-one states and a Federal District, its capital and largest city. The Hispanic culture is warm and friendly. There is a domestic adoption program available to Mexican citizens – these families generally get preference in child placement before foreign adopters.

Mexico 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 Mexico and the United States must meet the requirements of the Convention and U.S. law implementing the Convention. Mexican adoptions are conducted through a collaborative effort of a Hague accredited adoption agency in the U.S. and by the Mexican Central Adoption Authority (DIF). Information on international adoptions from Mexico on the U.S. Department of State web site: <https://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/country-information/learn-about-a-country/mexico.html>

Information on the country of Mexico on the U.S. Department of State web site: <https://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/mx/>

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

- ☑ Single children above age 5. Non-medical special needs children are age 9+.
- ☑ Children of all ages with various special needs are available.
- ☑ Sibling groups are available.

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

- The age difference between adoptive parents and a child should be at least 18 but not be more than 45 years.
- Parents must be over age 25.
- Single women are accepted into the program.
- A couple has to be married for at least 2 years.

PROCESS

1. Make application to Nightlight Christian Adoptions.
2. Begin your adoption home study and submit form I-800A to USCIS.
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-797C pre-approval notice.
5. Once your USCIS approval has been received your dossier is complete, you will be registered to adopt in Mexico.
6. The Mexican Central Authority will add you to a list of waiting families and it can take approximately 12-24 months to receive a referral. You may meet with State DIF before a referral is received. The State DIF is a large part of Mexico's Central Authority that processes all adoptions. This is an optional trip; however, it is encouraged as a way to establish a relationship between the parents and the State DIF and may help accelerate the matching process. Both parents must travel for this first trip, which is expected to be two to three days in length.
7. Complete official referral review with Nightlight's Social Services Department

8. You will file the I-800 for the child and then travel to Mexico. This will be your longest trip and will be your bonding trip to meet and spend time with your child. The length of time you are in Mexico is dependent upon the state the child resides in the regional DIF's requirements. It is generally 6 to 9 weeks in country.
9. A third trip may be required for the judicial procedure and adoption of the child.
10. The final step (last trip) is to obtain the US visa for your child and returning home.
11. Mexico adoptions can take on average from 24 to 36 months to complete.

TRAVEL & ADOPTION

Referrals are provided by National System for Family Development (DIF) via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE) of the Mexican state the child resides. The referral will contain basic information on child's medical and social background and pictures. Referral time depends on the profiles of the child(ren) a family looks to adopt. Two to four trips to Mexico are likely required, though each Mexican state may have different requirements. The length of the trips may range from 3 days to 3 weeks in length.

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 every 6 months after homecoming for the first three years. These reports include your child's developmental progress and pictures. This is a very serious commitment. Compliance with post adoption reports is also required by The Hague Convention. Therefore, Nightlight charges a fee to monitor and process these post placement reports and also requires families to pay for the cost of the post placement report in advance.

COSTS

The program fee for Mexico is \$20,500. 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 Julie Eagleson, julie.eagleson@nightlight.org or call 970.663.6799, ext. 199 with any questions.





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christian adoptions

because every child deserves a loving family

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

Mexico

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		\$5,500	<i>Due upon submission of dossier. Includes translation fees</i>
<i>Nightlight Program Fee</i>	<i>\$4,000</i>		
<i>Foreign Fee #1</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>		
Referral Phase		\$9,000	<i>Due upon acceptance of referral</i>
<i>Foreign Fee #2</i>	<i>\$3,000</i>		<i>Due when the dossier reaches the local DIF office</i>
<i>Nightlight Program Fee</i>	<i>\$3,000</i>		<i>Due at referral</i>
<i>Foreign Fee #3</i>	<i>\$3,000</i>		<i>Due at referral</i>
Travel Phase		\$2,500	<i>Due 14 days prior to travel</i>
<i>Nightlight program fee</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>		
<i>Foreign Fee #4</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>		
Total Program Fee		\$20,500	\$2,000 per sibling

OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
U.S.-Based Fees		\$11,170 – \$15,265	
<i>Home Study</i>	<i>\$1,500-\$2,500</i>		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</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 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>Psychological Evaluation/ 2 Parents</i>	<i>\$250-\$500</i>		<i>Some countries will require this and some will not. In addition your home study agency or Nightlight may require in certain circumstances</i>
<i>Dossier Apostille & Courier Fees</i>	<i>\$250-\$500</i>		<i>Dossier will be apostilled through the Secretary of State. Costs vary by state</i>
<i>Shipping/Translation of Dossier</i>	<i>\$2,500</i>		<i>Due to Nightlight at Dossier Phase</i>
<i>USCIS Filing Fees</i>	<i>\$945</i>		<i>Includes I-800A application & biometrics for 2 adults</i>
<i>Home study/USCIS Update Shipping and Translation Fees</i>	<i>\$75-\$300</i>		<i>Paid to Nightlight when applicable</i>
<i>Medical Review of Referral</i>	<i>\$0-\$200</i>		<i>Some physicians do not charge for this service. International adoption clinics will usually charge a fee for this.</i>
<i>Post Adoption Reports</i>	<i>\$1,800-\$2,400</i>		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Shipping and/or Translating of Post Adoption Reports</i>	<i>\$2,800-\$3,000</i>		<i>Costs may vary depending upon the number of children and state your child is adopted from., Due at referral phase.</i>
<i>Visa/Migratory Card for Non-Nationals</i>	<i>\$425</i>		<i>Cost is for 2 adults, required for non-Mexican citizens. Due before travel</i>
<i>Certificate of Citizenship (COC)</i>	<i>\$0-\$1,170</i>		<i>Applies to families in guardianship countries, families living abroad, families coming home on an IR4 visa. Not applicable in some countries</i>
Other In-Country Adoption Costs		\$4,050 – \$11,500	
<i>Airfare (2 adults)</i>	<i>\$800-\$1,500</i>		<i>Per trip</i>
<i>Airfare for Child (one way)</i>	<i>\$750-\$1,000</i>		
<i>In Country Travel, Accommodations, Meals</i>	<i>\$500-\$6,000</i>		<i>Estimated for 2 adults. 2 to 4 trips. Each trip varies; 3 days to 3 weeks.</i>
<i>Child Documents in Country</i>	<i>\$500</i>		<i>Due while travelling in country</i>
<i>Child's Visa & Medical</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>		
<i>Additional Foreign Attorney Fee</i>	<i>\$500-\$1,500</i>		<i>Dependent on child location in Mexico (does not apply in every case). Due upon referral acceptance</i>
Total Other Costs (Est.)		\$15,220 – \$26,765	

TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES

GRAND TOTAL	\$35,720 - \$47,265
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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
Mexico

SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS	Mexico
Home Study (including estimated out of pocket costs)	\$1,750–\$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)	\$11,500
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)	\$9,000
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.	\$3,750-\$4,000
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)	\$4,600–\$5,400
Travel/Accommodation Expenses: Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$2,050-\$8,500
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.	\$2,445–\$3,445

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