

Nightlight® Christian Adoptions

International Adoption Program Description

Romania



GENERAL INFORMATION

Romania is a small Southeastern European country that borders Black Sea, Hungary, Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria. Romania is known for its beautiful forests in Transylvania region and Carpathian Mountain. The capital is Bucharest. Romania 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 Romania and the United States must meet the requirements of the Convention and U.S. law implementing the Convention.

Romanian adoptions are conducted through a collaborative effort of a Hague accredited adoption agency in the US and by the Romanian Central Adoption Authority (National Authority for the Protection of the Child's Rights).

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

- <https://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/country-information/learn-about-a-country/romania.html> U.S. State Department page about Romanian adoption
- <http://www.romaniatourism.com> Romania Tourism

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

- ☑ Both boys and girls are available for adoption.
- ☑ Children as young as 3 years and as old as fifteen are available for adoption. (wait time for a referral of a child under 5 years old can be up to 2 years.)
- ☑ Sibling groups are available.
- ☑ Children with Special Needs are available for adoption.

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

Applicants must be at least 18 years older than the child they are adopting. Both married couples and single women may adopt from Romania. At least one applicant must be a Romanian citizen. Romania will not accept applicants with a criminal history, history of drug/alcohol abuse, or a history of pornography. Romania is reluctant to accept families with significant medical, psychological, psychiatric conditions.

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 petition, you will receive your **I-797C provisional approval notice**.
5. Once your USCIS approval has been received and your dossier is complete, you will be registered to adopt in Romania.
6. The Romanian Central Authority will add you to a list of waiting families and it can take 12 to 24 months to receive a referral.
7. Complete official referral review with Nightlight's Social Services Department
8. Upon referral acceptance, Nightlight will begin processing the family's I-800.
9. Once I-800 provisional approval is received, Visa application form DS-260 is filed in order to obtain Article 5 Letter.
10. Romanian Central Authority will then invite you to travel to Romania to meet and bond with your child (a minimum of 30 days for bonding).
11. At the end of the bonding period, your adoption court hearing will be scheduled.
12. You must wait 15 business days to receive the final court decree.
13. Once you have received the court decree, the local authorities will help you obtain a new birth certificate and passport for your child.
14. The final step is to obtain the US visa for your child and returning home.
15. The children reside in orphanages or foster families while awaiting adoption.
16. Romanian adoptions can take on average from 18 to 36 months to complete.

TRAVEL & ADOPTION

You receive a referral of a child from Romanian Central Authority through Nightlight Christian Adoptions. The referral will include a brief social history of the child, and the current health and development of the child. We highly recommend that you have this information reviewed by a doctor who specializes in international adoption before you make a decision. Once you decide to accept a referral, you will be considered "matched" with the child. You will then wait for an invitation to travel to Romania. Once you travel to Romania, you will remain in Romania a minimum of 60 days to process the adoption. Depending on the region, you may be able to make 2 trips to complete your adoption. After 30 days, you will attend your court hearing. You must wait for 15 business days before the final written decree will be issued. In some regions, the judge may waive this waiting period. Once you receive the court decree, you will obtain a new birth certificate and passport and begin the visa process. Both parents do not have to remain in Romania the entire time. Both parents must fulfill the initial bonding requirement and attend the court hearing.

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 on a quarterly basis for 2 years after the adoption is finalized. These reports include your child's developmental progress and pictures. This is a very serious commitment; Nightlight is committed to showing the Romanian Adoption Authorities 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 adoption reports in advance.

COSTS

The program fee for Romanian adoption is \$13,500. 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, at Lexis.knight@nightlight.org or 317 875 0058 with any questions.





nightlight

christian adoptions

...because every child deserves a loving family

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www.Nightlight.org



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

Romania

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		\$3,500	<i>Due upon submission of dossier</i>
Referral Phase		\$6,500	<i>Due upon acceptance of referral; \$5,000 for each additional sibling</i>
Total Program Fee		\$13,500	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
U.S.-Based Fees		\$8,270 – \$13,740	
<i>Home Study Fees</i>	<i>\$1,500 - \$2,500</i>		<i>Costs vary by state and agencies</i>
<i>Post Adoption Reports</i>	<i>\$2,400 - \$3,200</i>		<i>Costs vary by state and agencies</i>
<i>Shipping and/or translating of post adoption reports</i>	<i>\$1,200</i>		<i>(per child adopted) Costs may vary based on number of children adopted, due at referral phase.</i>
<i>Home Study Supporting Documents</i>	<i>\$225</i>		<i>Costs 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>Home study/USCIS update shipping and translation fees</i>	<i>\$300 - \$1,000</i>		<i>Paid to Nightlight when applicable, costs depend on number of updates needed</i>
<i>Psychological Evaluation/ 2 parents</i>	<i>\$0 - \$500</i>		<i>Your Home Study agency or Nightlight may require in certain circumstances</i>
<i>Shipping/ translation of dossier</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>		<i>Due to Nightlight at dossier phase</i>
<i>USCIS Fees</i>	<i>\$945</i>		<i>Includes I-800A application and biometrics for 2 adults</i>
<i>Document Apostille/ Authentication & courier fees</i>	<i>\$100 - \$700</i>		<i>Dossier will be apostilled through the Secretary of State. Costs vary by State.</i>
<i>Medical review of referral</i>	<i>\$0 - \$200</i>		<i>Some physicians do not charge for this service. Other international clinics will charge a fee for this.</i>
<i>Certificate of Citizenship (COC)</i>	<i>\$0 - \$1,170</i>		<i>Applies to families living abroad, families coming home on an IR4 visa</i>
Other In-Country Adoption Costs		\$8,225 - \$9,975	
<i>Airfare (2 adults)</i>	<i>\$2,000 - \$3,500</i>		
<i>Airfare for child (one way)</i>	<i>\$750 - \$1,000</i>		<i>Depends on the child's age.</i>
<i>Child's visa and medical exam</i>	<i>\$600</i>		<i>Paid to the US Embassy and clinic</i>
<i>Child documents translation</i>	<i>\$500</i>		
<i>In country travel expenses</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>		
<i>Lodging (45 days)</i>	<i>\$3,375</i>		
Total Other Costs (Est.)		\$16,495 – \$23,715	
TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES			
GRAND TOTAL		\$29,995 – \$37,215	

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
Romania

SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS	Romania
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)	\$13,500
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)	\$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.	\$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.	\$1,800 - \$2,500
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)	\$3,600 - \$4,400
Travel/Accommodation Expenses: Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$7,125 – \$8,875
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.	\$2,245 - \$5,215

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

Date:_____ Adopting Parents: _____