

Nightlight® Christian Adoptions International Adoption Program Description

UKRAINE



GENERAL INFORMATION

Ukraine is Europe's second largest country. The mainland of Ukraine is flat fertile land, but the Carpathian Mountains rise in the West and the Crimean Mountains in the south. The capital of Ukraine is Kyiv.

Nightlight Christian Adoptions' Ukraine adoption program has been active since 1998. The fees for an international adoption from Ukraine are reasonable, and we estimate that the process will take about one year from application to completion depending upon the type of child you are seeking to adopt. Your wait time will likely be at the shorter end of this range if you are open to a special needs, older child, or large sibling groups.

Staying on top of the regulations and the idiosyncrasies of Ukrainian adoptions requires someone with firsthand knowledge of adoptions in Ukraine. Nightlight Christian Adoptions uses a facilitator in Ukraine to meet with key officials. Additionally, Nightlight is committed to helping families prepare for the adoption of children from Ukraine. Because Ukraine does not permit families to pre-identify a child before traveling, you will be identifying a child in-country. Our pre-adoption education requirements will help prepare you by providing information about developmental delays and health issues. Because of the nature of children in need of adoption from Ukraine, you will be learning about the adoption of children over 6 years old and/or children with special needs – and the resources you possess to parent such children.

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

- <http://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/country-information/learn-about-a-country/ukraine.html> U.S. State Department page about Ukrainian adoption
- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/up.html>

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

Ukraine adoption is a wonderful international adoption program for families desiring to adopt children (5 and above) or children with special needs ages 14 months and older. Many sibling groups are also available. The types of special needs include HIV+, cleft palate/cleft lip, club foot, cerebral palsy, vision or hearing impairments; there are also more significant needs such as alcohol-related birth defects, Down Syndrome, and Intellectual disability. Many older children with only minor (and correctable) health challenges are also in need of adoption (in the 6-15 range). Children who would otherwise have little hope for a future can have a better life with the emotional and physical security that a loving family can offer, along with the availability of excellent medical care in the United States. Sibling groups of 3 or more children are readily available.

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

Based on Ukrainian law, you must be married and be at least 15 years older than the child you seek to adopt. If you have any criminal background or any mental health history, please let us know so that we can determine if the authorities in Ukraine will accept your application.

PROCESS

1. Make application to Nightlight Christian Adoptions.
2. Begin your **adoption home study** and submit form **I-600A** to USCIS.
3. Submit your adoption dossier to Ukraine Adoption Central Authority and be registered.
4. Begin to assemble your dossier while you wait for your I-600A approval.
5. Once USCIS has approved your petition, you will receive your I-600A approval notice, which will complete your dossier paperwork.
6. Your dossier will be hand delivered to Ukraine Adoption Central Authority by our coordinator. Once your documents are submitted, they are reviewed and the coordinator will be notified that your dossier is in good order or if corrections need to be made. Ukraine Adoption Central Authority takes 21 business days for review process.

7. Once your dossier is accepted and registered with Ukraine Adoption Central Authority, it will be at least another 21 business before your invitation to travel is received.
8. Complete official referral review with Nightlight's Social Services Department

TRAVEL & ADOPTION

You select your child once you are in the country. When you arrive in Kyiv, an English-speaking representative will meet you. The next day you will go to Ukraine Adoption Central Authority, where you will be given information about a child who is the same sex and approximate age that you requested. You will see a picture of the child and his/her profile information. Once you have identified a child to adopt and met with the child at his/her orphanage, you proceed in that region with the completion of the adoption. You will go to court and meet with a judge about 4-6 weeks after you have met with your child. At this time, you will be required to have a 30-day-wait period. During this time, you can go home or you can stay in Ukraine. You then receive your child, and our coordinator will help you arrange to get your child's new birth certificate and Ukrainian passport, as well as file paperwork with the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv for your child's U.S. visa. This process takes about 1 week to 10 days. Usually you will stay almost 8-10 weeks in Ukraine for the entire adoption process or you could make two or three shorter trips.

The in-country stay gives you time to visit your child daily at the orphanage and to begin the bonding process. It is amazing to see how children change while their parents are there visiting with them. The bonding process is very important, and being in the country allows your child to transition from being in an orphanage to being with you, his/her new family.

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 1 month, 6 months, 1 year, 2 years, 3 years, and then every 3 years until your child is 18 years old. These reports include your child's developmental progress and pictures. This is a very serious commitment; Nightlight is committed to showing Ukrainian 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 report in advance.

COSTS

The program fee for a Ukraine adoption is \$19,000. 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, ext. 181 with any questions.





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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

Ukraine

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		\$3,500	<i>Due upon receiving a Letter of Acceptance from Nightlight</i>
<i>Nightlight Program Fee</i>	\$2,500		
<i>Foreign Fee #1</i>	\$1,000		<i>Paid to FSP upon review of family home study.</i>
Dossier Phase		\$6,500	<i>Due upon completion of the Home Study</i>
<i>Nightlight Program Fee</i>	\$3,500		
<i>Foreign Fee #2</i>	\$3,000		
Referral Phase		\$8,000	<i>Due upon acceptance of referral</i>
<i>Nightlight Program Fee</i>	\$3,000		<i>Fee for adopting a 2nd child is \$3,000, \$2,000 each additional sibling</i>
<i>Foreign Fee #3</i>	\$5,000		
Total Program Fee		\$19,000	

OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
U.S.-Based Fees		\$5,020 – \$9,440	
<i>Home Study</i>	\$1,500 - \$2,500		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Post Adoption Reports</i>	\$1,500 - \$2,000		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Shipping and/or translation of post adoption reports</i>	\$0		<i>Translation and shipping of reports is not required.</i>
<i>Home study supporting documents</i>	\$225		<i>Cost for criminal clearances, obtaining physicals, and other misc. expenses</i>
<i>Parent Education/Training</i>	\$100 - \$300		<i>Estimated cost of online education courses</i>
<i>Home Study Review Fee</i>	\$300		<i>Review of home study prepared by an agency other than Nightlight</i>
<i>Home Study/USCIS update shipping</i>	\$200 - \$400		<i>Paid to Nightlight when applicable</i>
<i>USCIS Fees</i>	\$945		<i>Includes I-600A application & biometrics for 2 adults</i>
<i>Dossier Apostille/Authentication & courier fee</i>	\$100 - \$700		<i>Dossier will be apostilled through the Secretary of State. Cost vary by state</i>
<i>Psychological Evaluation/ 2 parents</i>	\$0 - \$500		<i>Your Home Study agency or Nightlight may require in certain circumstances</i>
<i>Shipping of dossier</i>	\$150 - \$200		<i>Paid to the service provider through Nightlight, due at dossier phase</i>
<i>Medical review of referral</i>	\$0 - 200		<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>	\$0 - \$1,170		<i>Applies to families living abroad, families coming home on an IR4 visa.</i>
Other In-Country Adoption Costs		\$3,345 - \$5,445	<i>Estimates are for 2 people and 1 trip</i>
<i>Airfare (2 adults)</i>	\$1,300 - \$2,400		
<i>Airfare for child (one way)</i>	\$500 - \$1,000		<i>Depends on the child's age.</i>
<i>In Country Travel and Accommodations</i>	\$1,000- \$1,500		<i>Estimated for 14 days. This would include housing, food, and in country transportation.</i>
<i>Child's new birth certificate, local passport, travel passport</i>	\$0		<i>Included in foreign fees already paid.</i>
<i>Child's visa and medical</i>	\$545		
Total Other Costs (Est.)		\$8,365 – \$14,885	

TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES			
GRAND TOTAL		\$27,365 – \$33,885	

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

Ukraine

SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS	Ukraine
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)	\$9,000
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)	\$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.	\$3,000
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)	\$1,500 - \$2,000
Travel/Accommodation Expenses: Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$2,800 - \$4,900
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.	\$2,040 - \$5,260

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