

International Adoption Program Description

Liberia

GENERAL INFORMATION

On July 14, 2014, the United States Department of State, Office of Children's Issues put into effect the requirement that all intercountry adoptions required a US Hague Accredited agency as Primary Provider. This meant that families could no longer complete an inter-country adoption without a Primary Provider Agency. Nightlight Christian Adoptions agreed to work with families who were interested in adopting relatives or completing an inter-country adoption through the UAA process. As the countries are varied and across the globe, the adoption process varies according to the country. Many of the countries provide for a 'guardianship' process with the actual adoption taking place and being finalized in the US. Each situation is evaluated on a case by case basis to determine whether Nightlight can assist the family with their adoption. Some of the countries are signatories of The Hague and others are non-Hague countries. It is expected that the adoption process may take anywhere between 9 months to 2 years, depending on the laws of both countries. This program is for countries that do not have US adoption agencies which are licensed to work in those countries.

It is helpful to read about your country of interest on the U.S. Department of State website on Inter-Country adoptions:

- www.adoption.state.gov

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

- Varies according to the country

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

- Dependent on the country requirements
- Applicants must be at least 25 years of age
- At least 18 years age difference between prospective adoptive parents and the adopted child.

PROCESS

1. Complete our online application (Pay application fee \$500)
2. Complete our International Adoption Services Contract (Pay initial program fee and Monitoring and Oversight fee of \$500 per child being adopted). The Monitoring and Oversight fee is paid to IAAME, the accrediting entity designated by the US Department of State/Office of Children's Issues, the US Central Authority.
3. Orientation meeting with Nightlight Staff, reviewing the intercountry adoption process through the country. Review and return Service Plan and Country Required Reading.
4. Begin your Home Study with Nightlight or an accredited adoption agency. We can provide a referral.
5. Once your Home Study has been completed, Nightlight will review the Home Study and assist you with preparing your I-600A Advance Processing of Orphan Petition for US Immigration <https://www.uscis.gov/i-600a>
6. You will receive an appointment to have live scan prints taken for the State Department.
7. Your local attorney in country will need to provide verification of license and good standing in their country and sign documents verifying ethical standards with Nightlight.
8. Begin work on your dossier – the documents required for the adoption in the country of your choosing.
9. Once the immigration documents are provisionally approved, Nightlight will work with you on obtaining the necessary documents to complete your I-600 or I-800 documents.
10. The country may require a bonding period in country with the child, prior to the court date giving guardianship/adoption to the prospective parents.
11. Nightlight Clinical staff will review the Child referral, medical, social and psychological reports with the adoptive family, with the understanding that the family has likely provided these documents to the staff member.
12. We will instruct you in filing the I-600 or I-800 with Immigration. (Submit final program fee to Nightlight)
13. In countries where guardianship is given, you will receive a provisional approval to bring your child home under the guardianship, with the understanding you will finalize the adoption under US law, once you return home with your child.
14. After the approval from Immigration, the parents will travel to the foreign country to complete the guardianship/adoption. Typically, this trip is from 1-3 weeks, and includes the finalization of the adoption in the court, filing of the adoption paperwork and obtaining the US Immigrant VISA to return to the US.
15. Once you arrive home, you will notify Nightlight.

TRAVEL & ADOPTION

- Often these countries require an official referral and bonding trip. You may be required to complete a home study by the country, of the home you will be residing in while completing the bonding period. Countries vary in this requirement although many require 3-6 months of bonding prior to the court approving a guardianship or adoption.
- If only guardianship was given by the child's country, upon arriving back in the U.S. you will need to complete a legal US adoption if your child entered the country under an IR4 VISA and guardianship. Once you have completed the legal adoption, you can apply for Citizenship for your child. If your child travels home under an IR3 VISA, the child will receive the Certificate of Citizenship within 6-9 weeks after you go through US Immigration when you enter the USA following your adoption.

POST ADOPTION

The post adoption reporting requirements vary between countries. Those countries that have a required bonding period in country, tend to have fewer post placement or post adoption reporting requirements once the family returns to the US. However, to finalize your US adoption, the family will need to contract for a US domestic adoption to finalize their child's adoption. Typically 2-4 visits are required.

COSTS

The program fee for Liberia is \$17,850. Your additional costs will include home study, airfare, hotel, meals and embassy fees as shown on the current Program Fee Schedule.

For further information please contact, Samantha Brown at samantha@nightlight.org , or by calling (317)875-0058.



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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

Liberia

PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
Application Phase		\$500	<i>Due with application</i>
Monitoring and Oversight fee charged by accrediting entity.		\$850	<i>Due upon signing the Agreement for International Services \$500 for each additional child</i>
Orientation Phase		\$2,500	<i>Due upon receiving a Letter of Acceptance from Nightlight</i>
Dossier Phase		\$10,950	<i>Due upon submission of a dossier.</i>
<i>Nightlight Program Fee</i>	\$6,600		
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$4,350		<i>\$3,850 for each additional child (to complete the legal process)</i>
Referral Phase (Nightlight Program fee)		\$3,400	<i>Due upon receiving an official referral</i>
Total Program Fee		\$18,200	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
U.S.-Based Fees		\$7,310-\$13,315	
<i>Home Study</i>	\$1,500-\$2,500		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Post Adoption Reports</i>	\$2,700-\$3,600		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Shipping of post adoption reports, per report</i>	\$95-\$105		<i>Costs vary depending on number of children adopted. Due at referral phase.</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 and USCIS updating and shipping fees</i>	\$795-\$2,250		<i>Paid to Nightlight when applicable</i>
<i>USCIS Filing Fees</i>	\$945		<i>Includes I-800A application, filing fee and biometrics for 2 adults</i>
<i>Dossier Courier Fees</i>	\$50-\$100		<i>Paid to service provider</i>
<i>Shipping of Dossier</i>	\$100-\$120		<i>Due to Nightlight 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>Attorney Fee Re-adoption Fee</i>	\$800-\$1,500		<i>Dependent on your state of residence. Due after child comes home.</i>
<i>Certificate of Citizenship Certificate</i>	\$0-\$1170		<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		\$5,915 – \$9,625	
<i>Airfare (2 adults)</i>	\$1,600-\$2,500		<i>Paid to airline</i>
<i>Airfare for child (one way)</i>	\$750-\$1,000		<i>Paid to airline</i>
<i>Visas (for 2 Adults)</i>	\$140-\$700		<i>Estimate does not include courier fees</i>
<i>Lodging, Driver, Accommodations & Food</i>	\$3,000-\$5,000		<i>Paid to service providers</i>
<i>Child's Visa & Medical</i>	\$425		<i>Paid to U.S. Embassy and Clinic</i>
Total Other Costs (Est.)		\$13,225-\$22,940	
GRAND TOTAL		\$31,425-\$41,140	

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

Liberia

SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS	Liberia
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)	\$13,850
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)	\$4,350
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.	\$895-\$2,370
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)	\$2,795-\$3,705
Travel/Accommodation – Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$5,350– \$8,500
Third Party Expenses: includes USCIS fees, courier services, and in country guide, child medical or visa costs if paid directly by the family rather than through Nightlight.	\$2,460-\$5,640

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