

# Nightlight® Christian Adoptions

## International Adoption Program Description

### CHINA HONG KONG



#### GENERAL INFORMATION

Nightlight offers international adoption from the Hong Kong, an autonomous territory in south Eastern China. This program was launched in 2011 and has been a successful program for families interested in adopting special needs children. Nightlight works directly with two social welfare institutes approved by the Hong Kong Central Authority to do intercountry adoption. Those institutes are Po Leung Kuk (PLK) and International Social Services (ISS).

The following website is a useful place to start for reading more about adoptions from Hong Kong:

- <https://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/country-information/learn-about-a-country/hong-kong.html> U.S. State Department page about Hong Kong adoption

#### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Nightlight began a partnership with Po Leung Kuk (a social service organization in Hong Kong) to place orphaned children into loving homes in 2011. Our partnership with International Social Services (ISS) has been in place since 2017. We work directly with these two social welfare institutes who are approved by the Central Authority of Hong Kong to conduct inter-country adoption. Hong Kong/China is a party to The Hague convention as well.

All children adopted from Hong Kong are considered to have special placement needs. PLK and ISS make available a list to Nightlight of waiting children. This program is unique because prospective adoptive families receive a great deal of information about the child they are considering including: medical reports from the time the child entered care; educational reports; social history; and as much information about the birth family as has been recorded. When a family expresses an interest in adopting a specific child, they make application with either PLK or ISS, the social welfare institute currently responsible for matching that child.

#### CHILDREN AVAILABLE

Children from 1 year to 15 years of age with special placement needs are available for adoption. Special placement needs may include medical health needs, mental health needs, or birth family issues. Some waiting children have moderate to severe special needs such as Thalassemia or Down Syndrome and some children over the age of 8 years are available who have no apparent medical problems. To view waiting children from Hong Kong, please visit our waiting child page on [adoptionbridge.org](http://adoptionbridge.org)

#### ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

Hong Kong's eligibility requirements include married couples must be at least 25 years of age and may not be more than 45 years older than the child they wish to adopt. Applicants must be married at least 3 years. When it is a second marriage, applicants must be married for at least 5 years. Singles may also adopt from Hong Kong but must have sufficient child care experience and a strong support network. Applicants need to be in good physical health and have a stable income.

#### PROCESS

1. Make application to Nightlight Christian Adoptions.
2. Begin your **adoption home study** and submit **form I-800A** to USCIS.
3. Families will wait until the appropriate child is identified and apply to the social welfare institute to be considered to move forward. This is not an official referral and simply means you will be able to apply for this match to the central authority.
4. Finish assembling your dossier. We will give you detailed instructions.
5. Once USCIS has approved your adoption home study, you will receive an I-800A approval notice.
6. Once your USCIS approval had been received and your dossier is complete, the central authority will begin their review of your dossier to determine if they will issue an official referral of the child you wish you adopt. This review will take 6-12 months.
7. The Central Authority will issue the official match of the child.
8. Complete the referral review process with Nightlight.
9. File your I-800 application.

10. Await high court order from the justice department in Hong Kong.
11. Travel to bring your child home.
12. Hong Kong adoptions can take an average of 24 months to complete.

### **TRAVEL**

Both prospective adoptive parents are required to travel to Hong Kong to accept placement of the child. Time in country is approximately 7 days though this time may vary slightly. Families receive guardianship orders from the Hong Kong court and then finalize their adoption in the US upon return. Travel to Hong Kong is comfortable for most families as Hong Kong has many of the modern conveniences we have here in the US and because the city is trilingual speaking English, Cantonese, and Mandarin.

### **NIGHTLIGHT'S COMMITMENT**

Nightlight is committed to preparing families for the adoption of a child with special needs. We provide pre- and post-adoption education and information regarding medical resources.

### **POST ADOPTION**

Hong Kong requires the first post placement report at 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 9 months, and 12 months after the child comes to the US. This is a total of 5 reports to be completed by your home study social worker and photos of your family and your adopted child are included. Each state has a different requirement for finalization. Some states may require ICPC (Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children) before finalization. Please check with your local social worker to see if this is a requirement in your state.

### **COSTS**

The program fee for a Hong Kong adoption is around \$12,600. 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.

For more information, please contact Gracie Trujillo at [Gracie@Nightlight.org](mailto:Gracie@Nightlight.org) or calling our Colorado office at (970)663-6799





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christian adoptions

...because every child deserves a loving family

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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](mailto:info@nightlight.org).

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

**Hong Kong/China**

PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
<b>Application Fee</b>		\$600	<i>Due with application</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #1</b>		\$2,500	<i>Due upon application acceptance</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #2</b>		\$2,500	<i>Due at the completion of the Orientation Call</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #3</b>		\$2,500	<i>Due prior to dossier submission to the country</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #4</b>		\$3,500	<i>Due upon receipt of referral</i>
<b>Total Program Fee</b>		<b>\$11,600</b>	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
<b>U.S.-Based Fees</b>		<b>\$9,430 – \$14,420</b>	
<i>Monitoring and Oversight fee charged by accrediting entity. Per child</i>	\$850		<i>Due upon signing the Agreement for International Services \$850 per additional child</i>
<i>Home Study</i>	\$1,500-\$2,500		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Post Adoption Reports</i>	\$1,800-\$2,400		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Shipping and/or translating of post adoption reports</i>	\$420		<i>Due at receipt of referral.</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 Agency Approval Process</i>	\$0-\$500		<i>If you live in a state where Nightlight is not licensed and where we don't have another agency who has previously been approved by the Hong Kong Central Authority, we will need to complete the approval process for a new agency.</i>
<i>Home Study/USCIS update shipping and translation fees</i>	\$60-\$70		<i>Paid to Nightlight when applicable</i>
<i>Psychological evaluation/ 2 parents</i>	\$0-\$500		<i>Some countries will require this and some will not. In addition, your home study agency or Nightlight may require this in certain circumstances.</i>
<i>USCIS Filing Fees</i>	\$945		<i>Includes I-800A application</i>
<i>Dossier Apostille/Authentication &amp; Courier Fees</i>	\$0		<i>Hong Kong does not require documents to be apostilled or authenticated. They are simply notarized.</i>
<i>Shipping/translation of dossier</i>	\$60-\$240		<i>Shipment of dossier to Hong Kong and includes shipping expenses of follow up documents for the dossier when applicable</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>Adoption Finalization</i>	\$2,000-\$3,000		<i>Cost varies by state/attorney</i>
<i>Certificate of Citizenship (COC)</i>	\$1,170		<i>Applies to families in guardianship countries, families living abroad, families coming home on an IR4 visa. Will apply to every Hong Kong case.</i>
<i>Dossier prep/state certification for families</i>	\$0-\$800		<i>NCA offers dossier prep where our staff will gather the dossier documents and send off to the secretary of state for you. \$800 for entire dossier or \$50 per document. These fees do not include shipping or the apostille costs.</i>
<b>Other In-Country Adoption Costs</b>		<b>\$4,325 – \$6,425</b>	<i>Estimates are for 2 people and 1 trip</i>
<i>Social Welfare Fee</i>	\$200-\$600		<i>Fee varies depending on which social welfare institute your child is in. Due at submission of dossier to NCA</i>
<i>Airfare (2 adults)</i>	\$2,000-\$3,000		
<i>Airfare for child (one way)</i>	\$400-\$600		<i>Depends on the child's age.</i>
<i>In Country Travel and Accommodations</i>	\$1,000-\$1,500		<i>Estimated for 7 days in country</i>
<i>Medical exam, immunization costs, TB screening, passport, etc.</i>	\$400		
<i>Child's visa</i>	\$325		
<b>Total Other Costs (Est.)</b>		<b>\$13,755-\$20,845</b>	
<b>TOTAL FEES &amp; ESTIMATED EXPENSES</b>			
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$25,355– \$32,445</b>	

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

**Hong Kong/China**

<b>SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>Hong Kong/China</b>
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)	\$11,600
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)	\$200 - \$600
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.	\$0
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)	\$2,220 – 2,820
Travel/Accommodation Expenses: Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$3,400 – 5,100
Third Party Expenses: includes USCIS fees, courier services, and in country guide, and child medical or visa costs if paid directly by the family rather than through Nightlight.	\$8,210 - \$10,950

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