

# International Adoption Program Description

## Burkina Faso



### GENERAL INFORMATION

Burkina Faso is a West African country home to approximately 20 million people, most well-known for its distinct music culture. It contains multiple rivers, lakes, and streams, but is a relatively flat country with the exception of a few plains of rolling hills. Originally a French colony, Burkina Faso achieved independence in 1960. While overflowing with vibrant culture, it is known to be one of the most impoverished countries in the world. The capitol is Ouagadougou. Burkina Faso 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 Burkina Faso and the United States must meet the requirements of the Convention and U.S. law implementing the Convention. Hague countries have additional safeguards to ensure ethical adoptions and tend to be more stable and predictable in processing adoptions.

All adoptions in Burkina Faso are completed through a collaborative effort between an adoption service provider approved by the Burkinabe Central Authority, Ministère de l'Action Sociale et de la Solidarité Nationale, who handles international adoptions and orphan care in Burkina Faso.

The following websites are a useful place to start for reading more about Burkina Faso adoption and the country in general:

- <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/Intercountry-Adoption-Country-Information/BurkinaFaso.html> U.S. State Department page about Burkina Faso adoption
- <http://www.burkina.com/> Burkina Faso Tourism

### CHILDREN AVAILABLE

- Both boys and girls are available for adoption; gender preference may be specified.
- Available children range in age from infancy to teens.
- Sibling groups are typically rare.
- Children are of African descent
- Children with special needs, including those with known needs ranging from correctable to severe, are available for adoption, including older children (6 and older) with no identified medical needs.

### ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

Couples who have been married five years or more can adopt from Burkina Faso. At least one spouse must be a minimum of 30 years old and neither spouse may be older than 53. Adoptive parents must also be at least 15 years older than the adopted child. Preference is given to couples without a child, followed by couples with only one child. Burkinabe law allows for a maximum of two children in the home after the placement of the adopted child(ren). If prospective adoptive parents already have one child in their home, they are not able to adopt more than one child from Burkina Faso. However, this requirement can be waived if the family is adopting a child with special needs or a child 6 years of age or older.

### PROCESS

1. Submit your 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 you to adopt from Burkina Faso, you will receive your **I-797C approval notice**.
5. Once your USCIS approval has been received your dossier is translated, your dossier will be registered in Burkina Faso.
6. You will be added to the list of waiting families and it can take 2-4 years to receive a match from the central authority.
7. Complete official referral review with Nightlight's Social Services Department

8. Upon referral acceptance, Nightlight will begin assisting you with processing of your I-800.
9. Upon provisional approval of your I-800, Your file is submitted to the U.S. Embassy in Burkina Faso and the Article 5 letter is issued.
10. Your legal adoption process is completed in Burkina Faso.
11. You will then travel to Burkina Faso for a period of 15 days to meet your child and begin the finalization process.
12. The final step is to obtain the US visa for your child, obtain exit approval, meet with the central authority and returning home with your adopted child.
13. The children reside in orphanages or foster care while awaiting adoption.
14. Burkina Faso adoptions will take approximately 18-24 months to be finalized after a referral is accepted.

### **TRAVEL & ADOPTION**

After being matched with a child, the adoptive parents are required to take one trip to Burkina Faso. The trip is a required 15 days, wherein the couple are united with their child and attend multiple appointments, allowing the child to exit the country and return to the U.S. with their 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, 12 months and 24 months from the date of placement and then every 3 years from the date of placement until the child turns 18, with at least ten printed photos to include pictures of the whole family and pictures of the child alone. Reports must be notarized and apostilled. These reports include your child's developmental progress and pictures. This is a very serious commitment; Nightlight is committed to showing the Burkina Faso government and birth families 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 placement reports and also requires families to pay for the cost of the post placement report in advance.

### **COSTS**

The program fee for a Burkina Faso adoption is \$27,600. Additional third party expenses may apply, see attached fee sheet for details. Out-of-pocket expenses may be reduced if you receive adoption grants, scholarships or other employer-provided adoption benefits. For additional fee information, please see Exhibit A.

Please contact Gracie Trujillo at [Gracie@Nightlight.org](mailto:Gracie@Nightlight.org) or call 502-423-5780 ext. 275 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](mailto:info@nightlight.org).

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

**Burkina Faso**

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 upon completion of the Orientation Call</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #3</b>		\$7,000	<i>Due prior to submission of the dossier to the country</i>
<i>Agency Fee</i>	\$3,000		
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$4,000		
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #4</b>		\$7,500	<i>Due upon receipt of referral</i>
<i>Agency Fee</i>	\$3,500		
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$4,000		<i>Additional children \$6,600 per child + \$1,260 interim care, after 6 months will be billed at a rate of \$210 per month until child travels home</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #5</b>		\$7,500	<i>Due upon issuance of child's passport</i>
<i>Agency fee</i>	\$3,500		
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$4,000		<i>Additional child fee \$3,280</i>
<b>Total Program Fee</b>		<b>\$27,600</b>	
<b>OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)</b>	<b>COSTS</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
<b>U.S.-Based Fees</b>		<b>\$9,730-\$18,890</b>	
<i>Monitoring and Oversight fee charged by accrediting entity. Per child</i>	\$850		<i>Due upon signing the Agreement for International Services \$850 for each additional child</i>
<i>Home Study</i>	\$1,500 - \$2,500		<i>Costs vary by state/agency.</i>
<i>Post Adoption Reports</i>	\$1,200 - \$1,600		<i>Costs vary by state/agency.</i>
<i>Shipping and/or translating of post adoption reports</i>	\$800 - \$2,250		<i>Cost varies depending on the number of children you are adopting. Due upon 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/USCIS update, shipping &amp; translation fees</i>	\$875 - \$2,140		<i>Paid to Nightlight when applicable.</i>
<i>Psychological Evaluation/2 parents</i>	\$200 - \$1,000		<i>Called a "Mental Health Letter" via Burkina Faso's Dossier.</i>
<i>USCIS Filing Fees</i>	\$920		<i>Includes I-800a application filing fee and biometrics for all family members.</i>
<i>Dossier Apostille/Authentication/Courier fees</i>	\$0 - \$1,050		<i>Dossier will be apostilled through the secretary of state. Costs vary by state.</i>
<i>Shipping/Translation of Dossier</i>	\$550 - \$575		<i>Paid to Nightlight 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>Attorney Fee Re-adoption Fee</i>	\$800 - \$1,500		<i>Dependent on your state of residence. Due after child comes home.</i>
<i>Childcare Expenses</i>	\$1,260		<i>Six months' payment for interim care per child, after 6 months will be billed at a rate of \$210 per month until child travels home.</i>
<i>Donation for Child Party</i>	\$150 - \$250		<i>It is expected though not required that each adoptive family will throw a goodbye party for their child's orphanage prior to leaving.</i>
<i>Certificate of Citizenship</i>	\$0 - \$1,170		<i>Applies to families in guardianship countries, families living abroad, families coming home on an IR4 visa. Not applicable in some countries.</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>\$8,655 - \$11,910</b>	
<i>Airfare (2 adults, round trip)</i>	\$1,200 - \$2,500		<i>Airfare varies depending on time of year travel occurs.</i>
<i>Airfare for child (one way)</i>	\$1,100 - \$2,000		<i>Airfare varies depending on time of year travel occurs and child's age.</i>
<i>In-Country Travel, Accommodations, Meals</i>	\$4,000 - \$5,000		<i>Estimated for 2 adults. 1 trip. Approximately 10-14 days, traveling to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.</i>
<i>Visas</i>	\$155 - \$210		<i>Per adult, estimate does not include courier fees</i>
<i>Child documents in country</i>	\$500		<i>Due prior and while traveling to country.</i>
<i>Ministry of Social Affairs, Dossier, Post-adoption BC, passport fees</i>	\$700		<i>Due prior and while traveling to country.</i>
<i>Child's Visa &amp; Medical</i>	\$1,000		<i>Due while in country.</i>

<b>Total Other Costs (Est.)</b>	<b>\$18,385 - \$30,800</b>
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**TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES**

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,985 - \$58,400</b>
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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

**Burkina Faso**

<b>SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>Burkina Faso</b>
Home Study (including estimated out of pocket costs)	\$1,925 - \$3,725
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)	\$15,600
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)	\$12,000
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.	\$1,260
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.	\$1,425 - \$2,715
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)	\$2,000 - \$3,850
Travel/Accommodation – Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$6,300 - \$9,500
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.	\$5,175 - \$7,600

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**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Adopting Parents:** \_\_\_\_\_