

Nightlight® Christian Adoptions

International Adoption Program Description

Jamaica Adoptions

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. The Jamaican Adoption Authority is the Child Development Agency or CDA

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
- <http://www.cda.gov.jm/>

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

- Children between the ages of 6 weeks and 18 years are eligible for adoption through the Jamaican Adoption Authority. However, according to US regulations, USCIS will not process the adoption of a child if the I-600A has not been submitted prior to the child's 16th birthday. We can only assist families who are planning to adopt children under age 16 and they are able to complete their home study and submit USCIS I-600A prior to the child's 16th birthday.

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

- [Country Requirements](#)
- Applicants must be at least 25 years of age.
- At least 18 years age difference between prospective adoptive parents and the adoptive child.
- Both single and married individuals can adopt.
- Income: Must meet US standards of 125% over poverty

PROCESS

1. Collect all required child documents and provide to Nightlight coordinator (proof of orphan status; parent death certificates or relinquishment of rights; medical evaluation; school and social report)
2. Complete our online application
3. Complete our International Adoption Services Contract (Pay Orientation fee of \$2500 and Monitoring and Oversight fee of \$850 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.)
4. Orientation meeting with Nightlight Staff, reviewing the intercountry adoption process through Jamaica. Review and return Service Plan.
5. Begin your Home Study with Nightlight or an approved Hague Accredited agency that is identified and approved by Nightlight.
6. Complete your pre-adoption application form to the CDA Child Development Agency, the Adoption Authority for Jamaica.
7. 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 (Pay \$2000 to Nightlight for second program fee, \$945 to US Immigration for I-600 processing and live scan [fees estimated for a married couple, no additional adults in the home]) <https://www.uscis.gov/i-600a>
8. Jamaica Dossier: Nightlight will assist you in putting together the packet of documents required by the Jamaican Adoption Authority.
9. With a relative adoption, the process in Jamaica can move fairly quickly and you may not be required to complete the in-country residence of 3 months for bonding.
10. Receive approval of the I-600A.
11. Nightlight Clinical staff will review specific child referral - medical, social, psychological reports with the family, recognizing the child is often well known to the family and the family likely provided the staff member with the referral information.

12. Complete I-600 application and submit to USCIS – NBC for review. Nightlight will assist with this process. (Submit final program fee to Nightlight - \$500 and \$150 for shipping of post-placement reports to Jamaica)
13. After the approval of the I-600, the parents will travel to Jamaica to complete the guardianship/adoption. This trip can be 2-6 weeks. Before traveling, confirm with the CDA that they have approved your process.
14. You will receive either a full adoption order or guardianship from the Jamaican court. If you have a choice, request a full adoption order as that would be recognized in the US and would not require an additional US adoption. If you receive guardianship on your child, you will need to complete a US final adoption once you return home with your child.
15. Complete US VISA process at the US Embassy (Guidance is provided by Nightlight staff).
16. Complete a minimum of 3 post placement reports with your Home Study provider once you return home.

TRAVEL & ADOPTION

- An official referral and bonding trip may be required by the CDA. Jamaica requires a 3-month period although often waives this for those adopting relatives or who carry a Jamaican passport.
- If only guardianship was given by the child's country, upon arriving back in the U.S. you will need to complete a legal U.S. adoption. In this case, your child would have received an IR-4 VISA. You will need to complete the U.S. adoption before completing the N-600 Application for U.S. Citizenship <https://www.uscis.gov/n-600>

POST ADOPTION

The post adoption reporting varies and is dependent on the final determination by the Jamaican court. A minimum of 3 post placement or adoption visits are required by Nightlight to insure and support your adoption process. The first report should be completed within 1 month of your arrival home. The following 2 reports should be completed at 6 months and 1 year of your arrival home. These summary reports should be submitted to Nightlight after each visit. The State where the family resides may determine a need for additional reports in order to complete a U.S. adoption.

The Jamaica Adoption Authority (CPFSA) will issue either a full and final adoption or a Guardianship License. For the families who receive a Guardianship License from the Jamaican Court, they must complete the finalization of their adoption in the US state where they reside. The CPFSA also requires post placement reporting every six weeks for the first three months and then every three months until the adoption is finalized. There is a minimum of 3 required, even if the adoption is finalized in less than 18 weeks. Jamaica requires that we send hard copies of these reports to their agency in Kingston.

For the families who receive a full and final adoption, CPFSA may ask you to commit to post adoption reporting, but currently no formal reporting is required by CPFSA. However, Nightlight has a minimum of 3 post adoption reports completed by a social worker at 1 month, 6 months and 12 months after you arrive home with the child.

COSTS

The program fee for an adoption from Jamaica is \$7,450. Your additional costs will include home study, post placement, post adoption shipping reports to Jamaica, immigration fees, country attorney, travel, documents or communication. Your out-of-pocket expenses may further be reduced if you receive scholarships, grants or employer-provided adoption benefits. Please see the fee schedule.

For further information please contact, Lynn Main at Lynn@Nightlight.org call (502) 423-5780 ext. 221



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
Jamaica Adoption Fees

PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
Application Fee		\$600	<i>Due with application</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #1		\$2,500	<i>Due upon application acceptance</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #2		\$2,000	<i>Due upon completion of the Orientation Call</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #3		\$1,850	<i>Due at completion of home study</i>
Referral Phase		\$500	<i>Due at submission of I-600 documents</i>
Total Program Fee		\$7,450	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
U.S.-Based Fees		\$6,595 - \$13,515	
<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 - \$3,000		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Post Adoption Reports</i>	\$1,050 - \$2,000		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Processing/Shipping and/or translating of Post adoption reports</i>	\$150		<i>Costs vary based on number of children adopted and number of reports required by the foreign country. 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 costs of in person and 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 and Translation fees</i>	\$0		<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 in certain circumstances.</i>
<i>USCIS Filing Fees</i>	\$920		<i>Includes I-600A application & biometrics for all family members</i>
<i>Dossier Apostille/Authentication & courier fees</i>	\$0		<i>Dossier will be apostilled through the secretary of state. Costs vary by state.</i>
<i>Shipping/translation of dossier</i>	\$0		<i>Paid to Nightlight when applicable</i>
<i>Medical Review of Referral</i>	\$0 - \$300		<i>Some physicians do not charge</i>
<i>Adoption Finalization</i>	\$1,500 - \$3,000		<i>Costs vary by state/attorney</i>
<i>Certificate of Citizenship</i>	\$0 - \$1,170		<i>Applies to families in guardianship countries where the child has come home on an IR4 VISA.</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>
Other In-Country Adoption Costs		\$3,325 - \$8,525	
<i>Airfare (2 adults)</i>	\$2,000-\$5,000		
<i>Airfare for child (one way)</i>	\$400-\$600		<i>Depends on the child's age.</i>
<i>In Country Travel and Accommodations</i>	\$500-\$2,500		<i>Estimated for 7 days in country</i>
<i>Medical exam, immunization costs, TB screening, birth certificate, passport, etc.</i>	\$100		
<i>Child's visa</i>	\$325		<i>Depends on child's age</i>
Total Other Costs (Est.)		\$9,920 - \$22,040	
TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES			
GRAND TOTAL		\$17,370 - \$29,490	

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.

Please initial 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

Jamaica

SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS	Jamaica
Home Study (including estimated out of pocket costs)	\$1,725 - \$3,225
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)	\$7,450
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 international 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 international 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 international 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)	\$1,200 - \$2,150
Travel/Accommodation Expenses: Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$2,900 - \$11,000
Third Party Expenses: includes USCIS fees, parent visas for travel, courier services, in country guide, and child medical or visa costs if paid directly by the family rather than through Nightlight.	\$2,195 - \$3,000

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:** _____