

# Nightlight® Christian Adoptions Renewed Hope Program Description *Placing Families*



## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Nightlight Christian Adoptions recognizes it is the desire of every family to have a successful adoption, even when a child may face difficult issues. However, unexpected problems may challenge an adoptive family beyond what they can handle. Nightlight developed the Renewed Hope program to assist families who feel dissolving their adoption is the best option for their children and their family. The Renewed Hope program seeks to match these children with new adoptive families. This is a program that offers new hope for families and their children who need to find a more successful placement for their adopted child.

Making the decision to dissolve an adoption is very difficult, but before you decide to find another family you may want to read this article: [“Was Our Adoption a Mistake?”](#)

## **GENERAL PROCESS**

This is a general overview of what is involved in the Renewed Hope program for placing families. Each state has its own adoption laws and the timing and amount of services required will vary depending on the applicable state laws.

1. You will be asked to complete a Child Intake form detailing your child’s behavior. Please be as detailed as possible when completing this form as it will allow the Renewed Hope program staff to determine some of the most pressing issues.
2. You will be able to speak with one of our professional adoption educators/advisors or counselors to discuss the problems and challenges you and your family are facing. This will be available to you throughout your Renewed Hope journey.
3. Nightlight staff will visit your family to better understand the factors leading to your decision to dissolve the adoption. The preferred site for this visit is in your home. If your child is not currently residing in your home, an additional visit to your child’s residence will also be required.

4. Prior to beginning the search for a new adoptive family for your child, we must learn as much as possible about your child, including genetic background, history before adoption, medical history, educational history, and behavioral health history. You will be asked to submit scanned copies of all records, including but not limited to therapy, medical, and educational records. You will be able to upload all of the needed documents directly to our database.
5. Once we have completed the comprehensive medical and social background report on your child, we will begin the process of locating an appropriate adoptive family for your child. Please understand that this process takes time. The length of time depends on several factors, including your child's needs as well as the criteria you set for the new family. Also, please keep in mind that the speed at which we can begin advocating for your child is dependent upon the finalized comprehensive background report. The completion of this document relies heavily on the speed at which you provide the requested documentation.
6. Nightlight will use photo listing as a means to locate a new family for your child. Your child will not be photo listed until the background report is finalized. Nightlight uses the following means of photo listing children, adoptionbridge.org, rainbowkids.org, waiting child emails, Instagram, and Facebook. Nightlight is very concerned with protecting your child and your family's identity. Your child's photo will be listed with a pseudonym to protect his or her identity, and we will be careful to only include pertinent information in the online write-up. We endeavor to present your child in the most positive light, and therefore avoid including any diagnosis or identifying information that could be found later in your child's adult life. In addition, Nightlight begins the process by utilizing the password protected websites listed above. We also use a closed email list of families who have signed up to adopt waiting children. We utilize social media on a limited basis. Please note that we have found social media to be one of the best tools for locating families for waiting children. All families joining the Renewed Hope program must agree to allow Nightlight to utilize all forms of photo listing and social media platforms in locating a family for their child.
7. Once a family has been identified, we will coordinate your communication with the potential adoptive family to share information verbally about your child's needs and behaviors so that you and the next family are comfortable.
8. Nightlight requires all potential adoptive families to meet with the child and new family for a short period of time before permanently moving. At this time, we will develop a Placement Service Plan with both families detailing the transition and post placement expectations of all parties. Each transition plan is specific to the child and their needs, not the placement or adopting parents; therefore, we cannot tell you what the timing of the transition will be until we have identified an adoptive family. Nightlight desires to make sure the transition is one that will cause the least amount of trauma to your child.

9. Nightlight will help coordinate with an attorney or other person permitted to take relinquishments. In most instances, Nightlight does not take legal custody of children in the Renewed Hope program. Legal and physical custody of your child will transfer directly from you to the new adoptive family. You, as the placing parents, must secure an adoption attorney, preferably an attorney who is a member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, to handle the termination of your parental rights. This attorney will also work with Nightlight to ensure that your child is properly placed with the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children if your child's adoptive family resides in another state. You are responsible for the cost of these legal arrangements.
  
10. In addition to any post-adoption requirements required by your child's initial placing entity or country, Nightlight will require the family to have at least three (3) post-placement/adoption visits and at least one report conducted by Nightlight or an agency within the new adoptive family's state. If the child is placed in a state outside of the states in which Nightlight is licensed, we will be following up regularly with the home study provider and the adoptive family to be sure that the placement is going well and the family is receiving the resources they need. Nightlight staff will maintain regular contact with you during the time between placement and adoption finalization to keep you abreast of how the placement is going. This contact may be through phone, email, or face to face visits.

#### **COST**

The cost of the Renewed Hope program for placing families is \$4,200 for families whose original placing agency was not Nightlight and \$3,200 for families whose original placing agency was Nightlight. Additional estimated expenses of \$1,500 to \$5,500 will bring the total cost to approximately \$4,700 to \$9,700. For additional fee information, please see Attachment A.

ATTACHMENT A  
 NIGHTLIGHT® CHRISTIAN ADOPTIONS  
 RENEWED HOPE (PLACING FAMILIES) – FEES AND ESTIMATED COSTS

PROGRAM FEES	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
<b>Application Fee</b> ( <i>All Families</i> )		\$200	<i>Due upon submission of child intake form</i>
<b>Program Fee</b> ( <i>Nightlight was not the Original Placing Agency</i> )		\$4,000	<i>Due upon acceptance of application</i>
<b>Program Fee</b> ( <i>Nightlight was the Original Placing Agency</i> )		\$3,000	<i>Due upon acceptance of application</i>
<b>Total Program Fees</b>		<b>\$4,200</b>	<i>Nightlight was <b>NOT</b> the Original Placing Agency</i>
<b>Total Program Fees</b>		<b>\$3,200</b>	<i>Nightlight <b>WAS</b> the Original Placing Agency</i>

  

OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
<b>Expenses</b>			
<i>Staff Travel Expenses</i>	<i>\$500-\$2,500</i>		<i>Cost of travel and hotel for one night, varies by state</i>
<i>Attorney fees</i>	<i>\$1,000-\$3,000</i>		<i>Costs vary by attorney/state</i>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED OTHER COSTS</b>		<b>\$1,500- \$5,500</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$4,700– \$9,700</b>	<i>Range depends on factors such as travel expenses and legal fees-all of which can be higher than estimated.</i>

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, 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 sign this page acknowledging that you have received a copy of this List of Fees and Estimated Costs.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Placing Father Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Placing Mother Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date