



nightlight®

christian adoptions

Anchored in Hope | Adoption from Foster Care



Adoptive parents receive personalized care to help support them through their adoption journey. We will be your advocate as you bring children into your home from foster care.

Nightlight Christian Adoptions believes that every child deserves a loving, permanent family. When you decide to adopt a child from foster care, you become a family to a child who will never get to return to their biological family. Adoption from Foster Care is a program which allows these children a new opportunity for family. They have all been through the removal from home due to abuse and/or neglect and dealing with termination of the parental rights of their biological parents. In all cases of children in foster care, reunification is the initial goal. In many cases, parents are unable to make the changes needed to safely parent their children again. When parental rights are terminated by the Court, and the current foster home is not able to adopt, the children remain in foster care not knowing what their future will bring. An adoptive family can bring security, stability, and new hope to a child for their future.

Children Available to Adopt Through Foster Care

- Children who have experienced abuse and/or neglect
- Sibling groups
- Children with special needs: medical and/or emotional
- Children’s ages typically range from 9-17 years old
- Less frequently, younger children are available, generally special needs or in sibling groups

Am I Eligible for Anchored in Hope?

In order to become a prospective adoptive parent in the Anchored in Hope program through Nightlight Christian Adoptions, the following criteria must be met.

AGE/HEALTH:	Parents must be at least 25 years old, unless otherwise dictated by the family’s state of residence. Parents must be in good physical and mental health to provide for the needs of the child/youth.
MARRIAGE:	Parents can be single, married, or divorced. If married, parents must be married for a minimum of two years prior to applying. Divorced applicants must be two years from a divorce finalization to apply.
LIVING SPACE:	Must be able to provide sufficient beds and space for additional children. You can rent or own your home. Parents must meet their state requirements for an adoptive home. Parents cannot have more than six minor children in the home, including the children you are adopting.
FINANCES:	Must be able to provide a financially stable home, which will be verified during the home study. This is demonstrated by having sufficient income to support an additional child without relying on the child subsidy.
ONGOING EDUCATION:	Must be willing to actively work with a team of professionals making decisions for the child. This will include a willingness to complete trauma training and educational requirements based on the child’s history.
COMPLETE A HOME STUDY:	Be able to complete and pass a home study as per state regulations. This will include trauma training, CPR/First Aid certification, in-person interviews, and passing child abuse and criminal background checks.
CHILD PREFERENCES:	Families cannot have a maximum age preference that is younger than 12 years old. Please understand most children available are ages 9-17.
RESPONSIBILITIES:	As a parent, you will be responsible for taking children for court-ordered treatment (i.e., therapy, doctors’ appointments, etc.), and working with the team to support the child in your home. In some situations, prospective adoptive parents are asked to support connections with biological siblings in other homes or kinship relationships.

How does the Process Work?

This is a general overview of the process. Each state has its own laws and the timing and amount of services required will vary depending on the applicable state laws.

1. Apply to Nightlight Christian Adoptions
2. Complete Anchored in Hope orientation with Nightlight staff
3. Complete all required paperwork
4. Complete training and education requirements
5. Complete a home study with Nightlight and be approved for the placement of a child
6. Along with Nightlight staff, search websites of adoptable children, including Nightlight's Adoption Bridge, AdoptUSKids, Heart Galleries, and websites of adoptable children in other states.



The Placement Process

1. When the Nightlight adoption advocate or family identifies a child that is a potential match with the family, Nightlight will submit the family's home study to the caseworker representing that child. The child's caseworker will include the Nightlight family in their group of potential families and will choose the family for the child.
2. If chosen for a particular child, the family will receive more information on the child and will participate in conference calls with the child's caseworker and other professionals involved in the child's case.
3. Given that more expansive information regarding the child is given at this point, the family is asked to consider a decision and give an answer regarding matching with the child. If the family decides to move forward, Nightlight will be responsible for coordinating the plan for placement with the placing state and any contractual agreements needed to be put in place.
4. Once the family, the child, and the child's caseworker all agree on the match, and the two states involved have given their approval (ICPC process), the family and the child will have an opportunity to meet and get acquainted. This process usually starts with a short meeting, and a second longer visit.
5. After all state approvals are given, the child will be allowed to come to the family's home for placement and remain with the prospective adoptive parent until the adoption can be finalized.
6. Nightlight will provide the post-placement supervision for a minimum of six months, this can be longer if required by the sending state. A minimum of monthly post placement visits to the home will be required until the adoption has been finalized in court. The length of time required before the adoption is finalized depends upon many factors and varies by state.

Cost

The fees for the program include the application fee, home study fee (and required clearances and education), and the program fee. The program fee covers the services provided by Nightlight throughout the process and includes completing inquiries on available children, contact with the placing state child welfare workers, participation in the meetings with the adoptive family and coordination between the case workers of the sending state and the adoptive family. Nightlight contracts with the sending state agency and provides post placement services until adoption finalization. The fees are outlined in detail on the next page.

Some families who adopt children from foster care are able to receive a subsidy for needs beyond the scope of daily care, food and clothing. The subsidies are determined by the needs of the child. A placement decision should not depend on a subsidy as it cannot be guaranteed.

If you have any questions, please call our office at (502) 423-5780 or send us an email at info@nightlight.org.

Attachment A
Nightlight Christian Adoptions
Anchored in Hope Program Fees and Estimated Expenses

PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	NOTES
Application Phase	\$600	Due at time of application
Program Fee 1	\$900	Due at time of application acceptance
Program Fee 2	\$4,000	Due at time of home study/home study update completion
Program Fee 3	\$4,500	Due after completion of Referral Review (Phase 3 of Education)
Total Program Fee	\$10,000	

EXPENSES (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	NOTES
Home Study	\$1,250 - \$2,500	<i>Updated annually</i>
Travel	Varies	<i>Mileage for home study and post placement visits are billed at the current federal rate and invoiced at the time of service</i>
PREPARE/ENRICH Assessment	\$35 per couple	
Education	\$80-\$500	<i>Varies based on NCA and state requirements</i>
Child Specific Home Study Addendum	\$100-\$750	<i>Varies based on state of residence</i>
CPR/First Aid (Adult and Pediatric)	\$65-\$100 per couple	<i>Updated according to expiration date</i>
DMV Records	\$2-\$9	
CBI/FBI fingerprints	\$50-\$100	
Live Scan Clearances	\$90	<i>This expense is only needed in CA</i>
Colorado Courts/Denver Court Records	\$10	<i>This expense is only needed in CO</i>
AOC Background	\$25	<i>This expense is only needed in KY</i>
Total Estimated Expenses	\$1,582 - \$4,119	
GRAND TOTAL	\$11,582 - \$14,119	Estimates may be higher. Range depends on factors such as the number of states you have resided in the past five years, if you require a home study update, and the requirements of the state where the child you are matched with resides .

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.

Fees are due immediately upon receiving the invoice. Cases with fees outstanding for more than 30 days are subject to closure. All fees paid to Nightlight are nonrefundable.