

Nightlight® Christian Adoptions

International Adoption Program Description

Canada Kinship Adoptions

GENERAL INFORMATION

Nightlight Christian Adoptions (NCA or Nightlight) has assisted families with the adoption of relatives in Canada. Both countries are signatories on The Hague Convention. In order for a US Citizen to adopt a relative from Canada, they must identify a US Hague Accredited adoption agency as their Primary Provider. Each Canadian Province has its own Central Authority, addressing Inter-Country adoption. Nightlight works with both the US and Canadian Central Authorities to assist families with kinship adoptions. The adoptive family must also complete a home study with a Hague accredited agency prior to the adoption process. Nightlight has 10 offices throughout the United States and can assist families in those States with their home study process as well. Otherwise, referrals can be provided to alternate local accredited home study agencies. Although the majority of the time, the adoption is finalized in Canada prior to the child moving to the United States, on occasion, a guardianship is given and the adoption will need to be finalized in the US according to the State requirements where the family resides. These adoptions can take anywhere between 9-24 months. Further information about the adoption process in Canada can be reviewed on the US Department of State website, www.travel.state.gov

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

- Relatives
- Meet the legal orphan definition

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

- Dependent on the requirements of the Canadian Province
- Applicants must be at least 25 years of age
- At least 18 years' age difference between prospective adoptive parents and the adopted child.

PROCESS

1. Complete the NCA online application and Orientation with the NCA CA office.
2. Begin your Home Study
3. After your Home Study is complete, submit an I-800A form to USCIS with the assistance of the California NCA office.
4. Nightlight will work with the Central Authority in your region of Canada. Your Home Study will be submitted to the Canadian Authorities for review and approval to proceed with the adoption process.
5. During the bonding period, the Canadian Adoption Authority will verify the match with the child and prepare the Article 16 Report that provides information about the child for submission with the I-800 petition to USCIS for provisional approval for the child to immigrate to the U.S.
6. The Canadian Authority will provide the referral to the family along with Nightlight as the Primary Provider Agency.
7. Nightlight Clinical staff will review the Child referral, medical, social and psychological reports with the adoptive family, with the understanding that the family has provided these documents to the staff member.
8. Although an attorney is not required, if you are considering working with an attorney in Canada, please discuss this with your program coordinator at Nightlight prior to engaging that attorney. If you are using an attorney in Canada, that in-country attorney will need to provide verification of license and good standing in their country. They will be required to sign documents with Nightlight verifying ethical standards.
9. Begin work on your dossier – the documents required for the adoption in Canada. Canada requires a six-month minimum bonding period for the child or children to live with the prospective adoptive family.
10. After provisional approval of the I-800A, the provincial authority will submit a visa application to the US Consulate General in Canada that is responsible for issuing visas. They will apply for a B2 visa (family member).
11. The Bonding Period is conducted under the supervision of the Canadian Provincial Authority and Nightlight as the Primary Provider, with the local Home Study Provider completing Post Placement Visits throughout the required six-month Bonding Period. The first visit must be conducted within 24 hours of placement. The following visits are conducted at 1 week, 30 days and monthly (or as

determined by the Canadian Local Authority following through the finalization of the adoption in the U.S. state where the family resides.

12. Once the immigration documents are provisionally approved, Nightlight staff will guide you on obtaining the necessary documents for and the process of filing the I-800 petition with USCIS.
13. Nightlight will instruct you in filing the I-800 with USCIS.
14. The Consular Officer will send the Article 5 letter to the Provincial Central Authority in Canada verifying that all Convention requirements are met and the Consular Officer has determined that the child appears eligible to immigrate to the U.S. The letter informs the Provincial Central Authority in Canada that the prospective parents are eligible and suited to adopt, and the U.S. Central Authority agrees that adoption may proceed.
15. Do not attempt to obtain custody of a child or finalize the adoption prior to the U.S. Consular Officer issuing the Article 5 letter.
16. After the approval from U.S. Immigration, the parents will finalize the adoption in the U.S. state of residence.
17. Upon finalizing the adoption in the US state of residence, or Canada, the family will complete the visa process at the US Embassy in Canada. A medical exam will be required by a US Embassy approved facility. Then the visa interview will happen and you will obtain an IR3 visa for your child. Once you arrive home the child will have automatic citizenship.
18. Once you arrive home, you will notify Nightlight and provide all adoption documents to Nightlight.

TRAVEL & ADOPTION

- Canada may require a 'pre-screening' evaluation, including a visit to the Province to meet with the Authorities overseeing the adoption process. This may be completed prior to the U.S. home study being completed.
- Once the home study has been completed, finalized, and approved and the I-800A has been approved, the family will be required to travel to Canada to transition the child into their care over a period of a few weeks to a month. Arrangements will be made in conjunction with the Provincial Authority. While in Canada, the family will be assisted and monitored by the local authorities involved with this adoption.
- Following the finalization of the adoption process, the family will travel to the U.S. Embassy in Montreal, Canada for the VISA interview process. Nightlight will advise on this process.

POST PLACEMENT/ADOPTION

The child will be placed with the prospective family for a bonding period of six months. The family will be supervised by the local home study provider under the supervision of the Canadian Ministry and Nightlight Christian Adoptions. Post placement visits are required at 1 week, 30 days and monthly thereafter, until finalization of the adoption. However, the judge could require additional post placement or post adoption visits, if any issue arise prior to finalization.

The Post Adoption Connection Center is a resource program offered by Nightlight Christian Adoptions and is available to adoptive families.

Please contact Nightlight Christian Adoptions if you have any questions about this process. You will be provided with more specific information about post adoption reporting and dates, along with reminders, following the completion of your adoption and the arrival of your child in your home. If you change residences, email or phone numbers, before or following your adoption, please contact our office and let us know about these changes.

The completion of post adoption/post placement reporting to the child's country of origin is critical to the continuation of inter-country adoption. A late report can have devastating consequences as other children from that area are prevented from being adopted until a late report has been turned into the authorities. Please assist us in this area by your timely compliance.

COSTS

The program fee for Canada is \$10,000. 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 further information please contact Rhonda Jarema, at Rhonda@nightlight.org or call at (714) 693-5437



nightlight

christian adoptions

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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.

ATTACHMENT A
NIGHTLIGHT® CHRISTIAN ADOPTIONS
INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS – FEES AND ESTIMATED COSTS
Canada Kinship Adoption Fees

PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
Application Phase		\$600	<i>Due with application</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #1		\$2500	<i>Due upon application acceptance.</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #2		\$2500	<i>Due at completion of Orientation Call</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #3		\$2,000	<i>Due upon approval Home Study</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #4		\$2400	<i>Due upon I-800A approval</i>
Total Program Fee		\$10,000	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
U.S.-Based Fees		\$7,770- \$13,740	
<i>Monitoring and oversight fee charged by accrediting entity. Per child</i>	\$850		<i>Due upon signing the Agreement for International Service. \$850 for each additional child</i>
<i>Home Study</i>	\$1,500-\$3000		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Post Placement reports</i>	\$2,000-\$4000		<i>PP reports with the Canadian Authorities requiring up to 10 reports (weekly over the 10 week/6 month bonding period pre-adoption)</i>
<i>Shipping and/or translating of Post Adoption Reports</i>	\$0-\$400		<i>Translation of post adoption reports to Quebec</i>
<i>Home study supporting documents</i>	\$225		<i>Cost for criminal clearances, obtaining physicals, and other misc. expenses</i>
<i>Translations of documents</i>	\$1875		<i>Translation of home study and other documents required to send to Central authority in Quebec</i>
<i>Parent Education/Training</i>	\$100-\$300		<i>Estimated cost of in-person or 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>USCIS Filing Fees</i>	\$920		<i>Included I800A application & biometrics for 2 adults</i>
<i>Home Study/USCIS update shipping and translation fees</i>	\$0		<i>N/A</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>Shipping and translation of Dossier</i>	\$0		<i>Canada does not require a dossier</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>Certificate of Citizenship</i>	\$0 - \$1170		<i>Applies to families in guardianship countries, families living abroad, families coming home on IR4 visa. Not applicable in some countries</i>
Other In-Country Adoption Costs		\$3,934 - \$8,634	
<i>Airfare (2 adults)</i>	\$2,000-\$5,000		<i>Paid directly to airlines</i>
<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-\$2,500		<i>Estimated for 7 days in country</i>
<i>Medical exam, immunization costs, TB screening, birth certificate, passport, etc.</i>	\$209		<i>Paid in country.</i>
<i>Child's visa</i>	\$325		<i>Depend on child's age</i>
Total Other Costs (Est.)		\$11,704 - \$22,374	
TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES			
GRAND TOTAL		\$21,704-\$32,374	<i>Range depends on adoption type and your expenses, which may vary from state to state.</i>

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 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

Canada

SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS	Canada
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)	\$10,850
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)	\$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 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.	\$2,275
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–\$4,400
Travel/Accommodation Expenses: Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$3,400–\$8,100
Third Party Expenses: includes USCIS fees, courier services, in-country guide, and child medical or visa costs if paid directly by the family rather than through Nightlight.	\$1,554–\$1,754

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