

# Nightlight® Christian Adoptions

## International Adoption Program Description

### United Kingdom

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

The United Kingdom is a Hague Convention Country. Adoptive placements from the UK primarily kinship adoptions, with children in the UK foster care system. We have worked with the local adoption authorities and UK Central Authority to help place children with aunts and uncles, grandparents and cousins over the past few years. The Local Authority may consider other close family relationships, for permanent placement with children in foster care. Nightlight estimates the UK adoption process will take around 24 months from application to completion, depending on issues related to the family situation. The adoption process is typically initiated by the Local Authority or foster care program in the UK.

The following websites are a useful place to start for reading more about UK adoptions and the country:

- U.S. State Department page about UK adoption:  
<https://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/country-information/learn-about-a-country/united-kingdom.html>
- Information on the United Kingdom on the U.S. Department of State web site:  
<https://uk.usembassy.gov/our-relationship/policy-history/cultural-connections/>

#### CHILDREN AVAILABLE

- Boys and girls
- Babies through children under 16 years of age.
- Sibling groups
- The child or children must be a biological relative, available for adoption, meeting the 'orphan' definition.

#### ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

- Married couples and single individuals
- Applicants must be at least 25 years of age
- At least 18 years age difference between prospective adoptive parents and the adopted child.
- Biological relative of the intended adoptee. The Local Authority may consider a non-biological family member, if it is in the child's best interests.

#### PROCESS

1. Complete our online application and orientation, once your application is accepted.
2. Begin your Home Study at one of the Nightlight offices if you reside in a state, where Nightlight has an office. Otherwise you will be provided with affiliated home study provider agencies.
3. After your Home Study is complete, it will be reviewed by Nightlight. You will then submit the I-800A packet to USCIS.
4. Once the I-800A receives provisional approval by USCIS, Nightlight will work with the Council to arrange for the 10-week bonding period.
5. The Prospective parents will travel to the UK to begin the transition period and initial bonding with the child. The child will then travel with the prospective parents and likely the child's social worker, to the US. The UK worker will then assist with transition at the family home.
6. The required bonding period is for a minimum of ten-weeks, however due to USCIS processing times, tends to run closer to 6-9 months. Once the child is placed with the prospective family during the bonding period, the child remains with the family through the finalization of the adoption.
7. Nightlight will work together with the UK Council to gather the necessary documents for the I-800.
8. The UK Council will provide the Child medical, social and psychological reports. The Article 16 letter will come from the UK Central Authority and will accompany the Article 16 report.
9. Complete official referral review with Nightlight's Social Services Department  
We will instruct you in filing the I-800 with Immigration and you will receive a provisional approval to adopt your child.

10. After the approval from Immigration, the parents and child will return to the UK to complete the adoption. Typically, this trip is from 1-3 weeks, and includes the finalization of the adoption in the UK court, filing of the adoption paperwork and obtaining the US Immigrant VISA to return to the US.
11. The UK Council will assist you with the embassy appointment.
12. Once you arrive home, you will notify Nightlight.

### **TRAVEL & ADOPTION**

- Typically, there is an initial visit to the UK to verify the family commitment to the adoption. This often takes place once the family has an approved home study. Once the family has the approved I-800A, they will begin working with the UK Council towards transitioning the child to the family in the US.
- Either the pre-adoptive family or the child social worker will transport the child to the US for the 10-week bonding period. Some portion of this time may be required to be completed in the UK.
- The Final trip is for the court hearing to complete the adoption. Only one parent needs to come although it is recommended that the entire family participate. You will file your child's adoption paperwork at the U.S. Embassy and obtain the child's U.S. Immigrant visa. Upon arriving back in the U.S. your child will automatically be a U.S. citizen. A few weeks after arriving home, your child will receive a Certificate of Citizenship.

### **POST ADOPTION**

Each Local Authority or Council in the UK, will determine the frequency and specific requirements for the post adoption reporting. Often, the visits and reports are completed by both the UK Social Worker as well as the US home study provider, weekly through the first month and then one or two visits monthly. The post placement reporting will continue through the finalization of the adoption in the UK.

### **COSTS**

The program fee for an adoption from the UK is \$10,060. Your additional costs will include home study, post placement, post adoption, immigration fees, country attorney, travel, documents or communication. In most cases, the UK Council will cover the majority, if not all of the expenses. Any fees not covered by the Council will be negotiated between the family and Local Authority with guidance from Nightlight. For further information please contact Rhonda Jarema, at [Rhonda@nightlight.org](mailto:Rhonda@nightlight.org) or call at (714) 693-5437 ext 127.



# nightlight

christian adoptions

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[www.Nightlight.org](http://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](mailto:info@nightlight.org).

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

**UK Kinship Adoption Fees**

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, Includes wire transfer fees</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #2</b>		\$2,560	<i>Due upon completion of the Orientation Call</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #3</b>		\$2,000	<i>Due upon home study approval</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #4</b>		\$2,400	<i>Due upon I-800A approval</i>
<b>Total Program Fee</b>		<b>\$10,060</b>	

OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
<b>U.S.-Based Fees</b>		<b>\$5,895 - \$12,615</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 - \$3,000		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Post Placement reports</i>	\$2,000 - \$4,000		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Shipping and/or translating of Post placement reports</i>	\$0		<i>Costs vary based on number of children adopted and number of reports Required by the foreign country. Due at 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 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-800A application &amp; biometrics for all family members.</i>
<i>Dossier Apostille/Authentication &amp; courier Fees</i>	\$0 - \$300		<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 - \$200		<i>Some physicians do not charge for this service. International adoption clinics usually charge a fee for this service</i>
<i>Certificate of Citizenship (COC)</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-\$850		<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>\$4,134 - \$9,234</b>	
<i>Airfare (2 adults)</i>	\$2,000 - \$5,000		
<i>Airfare for child (one way)</i>	\$600 - \$1,200		<i>Depends on the child's age.</i>
<i>In Country Travel and Accommodations</i>	\$1,000 - \$2,500		<i>Estimated are for 2 people and 1 trip</i>
<i>Medical exam, immunization costs, TB screening, birth certificate, passport, etc.</i>	\$209		<i>Depends on child's age.</i>
<i>Child's visa</i>	\$325		<i>Depends on child's age</i>
<b>Total Other Costs (Est.)</b>		<b>\$10,029 - \$21,849</b>	

**TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES**

**GRAND TOTAL** **\$20,089 - \$31,909**

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

**UK Kinship Adoption Fees**

<b>SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>UK Kinship</b>
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);	\$10,910
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.	\$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 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 reports: the expected total fees and estimated expenses for any PP reports that the agency or parents must prepare to comply with requirements of the expected country of original (and NCA requirements) -.	\$2,000 - \$4,000
Travel/Accommodation Expenses: Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$3,600 – \$8,700
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	\$2,404 - \$3,305

\*The United Kingdom typically will cover all or most of the adoption expenses if the child is in care.

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