

Nightlight® Christian Adoptions International Adoption Program Description Uganda



GENERAL INFORMATION

Nightlight's Uganda program began in 2010. Uganda is located in Africa often referred to as the "Pearl" of Africa. The fees for an adoption from Uganda are reasonable, and we estimate that the process will take approximately 2-3 years from application to completion depending upon the type of child you are seeking to adopt.

Nightlight Christian Adoptions works with specific children's homes in Uganda. Children in Uganda are often abandoned due to poverty related to social problems and the parents' illnesses. Children available for adoption from Uganda have special needs which requires special families. Families traveling to Uganda to adopt their children will receive a full and final adoption decree from the Ugandan courts. Uganda laws require adoptive families to live in Uganda for 12 months for foster the child they wish to adopt. It is important for families to prepare to live in Uganda for at least 2 years to complete the adoption process. Nightlight is committed to helping families prepare for the adoption of children from Uganda by providing educational information on developmental delays and health issues.

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

- <https://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/country-information/learn-about-a-country/uganda.html>
- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ug.html>

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

Uganda adoption is a wonderful program for families desiring to adopt children 5 years old and older with special needs. Ekisa Ministries cares for children with more severe special needs. Children living in poverty and raised in institutional care often have both developmental and emotional needs. Children who would otherwise have little hope for a future can have a better life with the emotional and physical security that a loving family can offer, along with the availability of excellent medical care in the United States.

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

Most loving, stable families qualify to adopt from Uganda. However, certain factors could keep you from adopting in general or from Uganda in particular, as each country has its own rules as to who can adopt. Uganda requires a 12-month residency requirement for adoptive families. Parents must be 21 years older than the child they wish to adopt. Before applying, please consult with Nightlight regarding any sensitive issues that may apply to you, such as a divorce, a mental health issue, or a criminal history.

PROCESS

1. Make application to Nightlight Christian Adoptions.
2. Begin your adoption home study and submit form I-600A to USCIS.
3. Begin to assemble your dossier. We will give you detailed instructions.
4. Once USCIS has approved your adoption home study, you will receive your pre-approval notice.
5. Once your USCIS approval has been received and a child is available for you, you will receive a referral of a child in Uganda.
6. Complete official referral review with Nightlight's Social Services Department
7. Once you have accepted a match of a child, you will be asked to travel to Uganda to meet your child face-to-face. Before you travel, your dossier will be delivered to the attorney in Uganda. When you arrive in Uganda, you will meet the child at the orphanage. You will also meet with the Probation Officer. After the Probation Officer obtains the fostering order, you will be expected to remain in Uganda fostering your child for 12 months. At the end of the 12 months of fostering, you and your child will appear before the Alternative Care Panel after a request has been made by the Probation Officer. The Alternative Care Panel must issue an approval letter to the court before the attorney is able to file the Petition in the

Uganda High Court Family Division. You will receive a court date. You may be required to live in Uganda for 24 months to fulfill the fostering requirement, attend court hearing, process I-600, and obtain approval and a VISA for the child to come home to the United States.

8. The ruling will be issued anywhere from 2 weeks to 6 weeks after your hearing. (This varies by the judge.)
9. The attorney can register the adoption, obtain a birth certificate, and apply for your child's passport and file the I-600 on your behalf with the US Embassy.
10. Attend the US Embassy appointment, pick up your child's visa, and bring your child home!

TRAVEL & ADOPTION

You receive a referral of a child from Nightlight Christian Adoptions. The referral will include a brief social history of the child, the current health and development of the child, and lab test results for HIV. Nightlight requires that you have this information reviewed by a medical professional. We highly recommend that you have this information reviewed by a doctor who specializes in international adoption before you make a decision. Once you decide to accept a referral, you will be considered "matched" with the child. You will then travel to Uganda to meet your child and your dossier will then be given to the attorney in Uganda. The attorney will put together information on the child's file and add this information to your dossier to file with the court. The probation officer will submit the request for fostering to the Alternative Care Panel. You will spend time bonding with your child while fostering the child for 12 months. After the fostering period, the probation officer will request a second meeting with the Alternative Care Panel. After receiving approval from the Care Panel, the attorney will request a court date. After the court order is issued, the attorney will file your I-600 with the US Embassy. You will also be expected to take your child for their visa medical appointment. Once these things are approved, the US Embassy will invite you for your child's visa appointment.

POSTADOPTION

Within 30 days of your arrival home, you must have a home visit by your home study provider. Your home study provider will prepare one brief post adoption report and three full post-adoption reports and submit them to Nightlight. The first report is a brief check in with the social worker after you have been home for 1 month. The second report will be completed within 6 months of your child's arrival home and the others at 1 and 2 years after you arrive home with your child. In addition, the Ugandan courts require a self-report be provided to the court every 12 months until your child turns 18 years old. In the event that your social work report coincides with one of the self-reports due, the social work report will supersede your self-report. These reports include your child's developmental progress and pictures. This is a very serious commitment; Nightlight is committed to showing the Ugandan government and birth families that children adopted by US citizens are healthy and well cared for. Therefore, Nightlight requires families to pay for the cost of the post adoption reports in advance.

COSTS

The program fee for a Uganda adoption is \$22,900. 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.

Please contact Lisa Whitaker at Lisaw@nightlight.org, or call our KY office (859-263-9964) with any questions.





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christian adoptions

...because every child deserves a loving family

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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

Uganda

PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
Application Fee		\$600	<i>Due with application</i>
Foreign Fee		\$300	<i>Due upon application acceptance from NCA. Vetting Fee</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #1		\$2,500	<i>Due upon application acceptance</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #2		\$2,500	<i>Due upon completion of the Orientation Call</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #3		\$9,000	<i>Due prior to submission of dossier to country</i>
<i>Agency Fee</i>	\$5,000		
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$4,000		<i>Attorney Fee</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #4		\$8,000	<i>Due upon receipt of referral</i>
<i>Agency Fee</i>	\$4,000		
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$4,000		<i>Attorney Fee. Fee for each additional child is \$3,000</i>
Total Program Fee		\$22,900	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
U.S.-Based Fees		\$5,320 - \$10,290	
<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 - \$2,500		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Post Adoption Reports</i>	\$900 - \$1,200		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Shipping and/or translation of post adoption reports</i>	\$225		<i>(per child) Costs vary based on number of children adopted, 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 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 fee</i>	\$0		<i>Paid to Nightlight when applicable.</i>
<i>Psychological Evaluation/2 parents</i>	\$0 - \$1,000		<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 Fees</i>	\$920		<i>Includes I-800A application and biometrics for all family members.</i>
<i>Document Authentication and Legalization</i>	\$200		<i>Two sets of dossier items will all items notarized.</i>
<i>Shipping/Translation of Dossier</i>	\$100		<i>Paid to Nightlight when applicable.</i>
<i>Medical review of referral</i>	\$0 - \$500		<i>Some physicians do not charge for this service. Other international clinics will charge a fee for this.</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 IR-4 visa. Not applicable in some countries.</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		\$26,500 - \$28,900	
<i>Airfare (2 adults)</i>	\$3,000		<i>Estimated for 2 adults,</i>
<i>Airfare for child (one way)</i>	\$1,000		
<i>Private Investigation</i>	\$1,800 - \$4,000		<i>Private Investigation to determine orphan status of one child \$1,800. Sibling \$900. Extra expenses charged for excessive travel expenses.</i>
<i>Transportation and Facilitation of witnesses to court</i>	\$1,000 - \$3,000		<i>Many witnesses including probation officers, children's home workers, biological family members must attend court. Cost varies based on number of people required in court and the length of travel time.</i>
<i>Obtaining National ID for child and family members as required. Obtaining proper birth certificate for child as needed. Obtaining all other documents for adoption and/or court.</i>	\$300 - \$1,000		<i>Certain documents are required for court and/or for US Embassy filing. Cost varies based on required or requested documents.</i>
<i>Child's visa and medical</i>	\$400 - \$600		<i>Cost varies based on orphanage expenses in taking your child to Kampala for the appointment.</i>
<i>Processing of I-600</i>	\$500		<i>Per child.</i>
<i>Hotel and housing accommodations</i>	\$12,000		<i>Estimated for 1 year (\$1,000/month)</i>
<i>Food Expenses</i>	\$6,000		<i>Estimated for 1 year</i>

<i>Child birth certificate and passport and registration of adoption</i>	<i>\$1000</i>	<i>Per child – Due upon receipt of referral.</i>
<i>Birth family death certificate</i>	<i>\$300</i>	<i>Per death certificate, if applicable</i>
<i>Letter of Good Standing</i>	<i>\$100</i>	<i>For both parents – required before court</i>
<i>Ugandan Visas (2 Adults)</i>	<i>\$400</i>	<i>Estimated for 2 years</i>
<i>DNA Testing</i>	<i>\$300</i>	<i>Per Test, if necessary.</i>

Total Other Costs (Est.) **\$31,820 - \$39,190**

TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES

GRAND TOTAL **\$54,720 - \$62,090**

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.

A late fee of 12% annual (1% monthly) will be assessed for fees more than 30 days past due.

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

Uganda

SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS	Uganda
Home Study (including estimated out of pocket costs)	\$1,500 – \$2,500
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)	\$15,450
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 convention country)	\$10,100 - \$12,300
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.	\$525
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)	\$1,125 – \$1,425
Travel/Accommodation Expenses: Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$24,000
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.	\$3,670 – \$3,870

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