

International Adoption Program Description

Nigeria



GENERAL INFORMATION

Nightlight's Nigeria program began in 2016. Nigeria is located in West Africa and is the most populous country in Africa. For this reason, it is often referred to as the "Giant of Africa". The capital of Nigeria is Abuja and the largest city is Lagos. The fees for an adoption from Nigeria 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 has partnered with a local Non-governmental organization (NGO) in Nigeria known as Morgan Hill Children Foundation. Their mission is to promote literacy, education, care, support, and to empower children. Children in Nigeria are often abandoned due to poverty related to social problems and the parents' illnesses. Nightlight is committed to helping families prepare for the adoption of children from Nigeria by providing educational information on possible developmental delays and health issues.

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

- State Department page about Nigeria adoption: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/Intercountry-Adoption-Country-Information/Nigeria.html>
- Nigeria Tourism: <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/nigeria>

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

There are children 1-15 years old available in Nigeria. Children that are 1-5 years old often have some minor identified special need(s) and children that are 5+ years old do not. There are children available that have moderate to severe identified special need(s) of all ages. 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. There are also sibling groups available for adoption.

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

Married couples over 25 years and singles over age 35 old may adopt from Nigeria. Adoptive parents must be at least 25 years older than the child they wish to adopt. Nigeria does not allow adoptive parents who are diagnosed a mental health condition to adopt. This includes mild anxiety and depression. Certain factors could keep you from adopting in general or from Nigeria in particular, as each country has its own rules as to who can 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. Complete an application to Nightlight Christian Adoptions.
2. Apply to Nigeria's Ministry of Youth & Social Development
3. Begin your **adoption home study** and submit **form I-600A** to CIS.
4. Begin to assemble your **dossier**. We will give you detailed instructions.
5. Once USCIS has approved your adoption home study, you will receive your **I-171H pre-approval notice**.
6. Once your dossier is approved and mailed to Nigeria, you will wait to receive a referral of a child in Nigeria. The wait time will depend on your openness to age, gender, and special needs.
7. Once you receive the referral you will complete official referral review with Nightlight's Social Services Department
8. Once you have accepted a match of a child, Morgan Hill will add the child's paperwork to your dossier and file with the Ministry for approval.
9. You will receive permission to travel and go to Nigeria for the bonding and court period. You will also apply for your child's passport.

10. During your second trip (2-3 weeks) you will complete the Embassy doctor appointment, complete the visa appointment at the US embassy, and then bring your child home!

TRAVEL & ADOPTION

You receive a referral of a child from Nightlight Christian Adoptions. The referral will include a photo, brief social history of the child, the current health and development of the child, and lab test results for HIV, Hepatitis B & C, Sickle cell, Syphilis and TB. 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. Once you receive permission to travel from the Ministry, you will then make plans to travel to Nigeria for the bonding period. You will need to make plans to travel to a Nigerian consulate before you leave to obtain a visa before you are able to fly to Nigeria.

Families are required to take two separate trips to Nigeria. The first trip is approximately 4-5 weeks for the bonding and court processes. After the adoption is finalized in the court, you will return home and file the I600 with USCIS to apply for the child’s visa. After the I-600 application is submitted, the Embassy in Lagos performs the I604 investigation. This I604 investigation can take several months and there is little communication from the Embassy about your case during this time. Once the case is approved, you will receive an Email from USCIS and your case will be returned to the US embassy in Lagos to schedule the visa interview. You will return to Nigeria for the second trip at that time which requires about 1-2 weeks in country. Both parents must be present for the first trip at the start of the bonding period as well as for court. The in-country stay gives you time to visit and live with your child daily and to begin the bonding process. It is also a great time to learn more about the culture and history of Nigeria.

POSTADOPTION

Within 30 days of your arrival home, you must have a home visit by your home study provider. This one-month social worker report is required by Morgan Hill and we will be sending them this one-month report along with 6-8 updated photos of your child. If your child comes to the U.S. on an IR3 or IH3 visa, their Certificate of Citizenship should be mailed to them. Nigeria also requires reports to be sent to the ministry each year until the child turns 18 years old. The one-month report, first year report and second year report from your child being home, needs to be completed by a social worker. After you are home for 2 years, you can begin self-reporting on the child until they turn 18 years old. All reports need to include 6-8 updated photos of your child with at least one photo with both parents, which Nightlight will mail to Nigeria. These reports include your child’s developmental progress and pictures. This is a very serious commitment; Nightlight is committed to showing the Nigerian government and birth families that children adopted by US citizens are healthy and well cared for. Nigeria has also informed us that The Ministry of Youth and Social Development will no longer send us child referrals should families not comply with Post Adoption Report Requirements so this is a very important requirement for all families to complete. Therefore, Nightlight charges a fee to monitor and process these post placement reports and requires families to pay for the cost of the post placement reports in advance. Shipping costs for the post adoption reports to be sent to Nigeria will be collected prior to the family traveling to pick up their child.

COSTS

The program fee for a Nigeria adoption is \$19,600. 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 be reduced if you receive scholarships, grants or employer-provided adoption benefits. For additional fee information please see Exhibit A.

Please contact Lynn Main at Lynn@Nightlight.org or call (502)-423-5780 with any questions.





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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
Nigeria

PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
Application Phase		\$600	<i>Due with application</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #1		\$2,500	<i>Due upon application acceptance</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #2		\$2,500	<i>Due upon completion of your Orientation call</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #3		\$7,200	<i>Due upon submission of the dossier to Nightlight</i>
<i>Agency Fee</i>	\$1,900		
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$5,300		\$3,317 each additional sibling
Nightlight Program Fee #4		\$6,800	<i>Due upon receipt of referral</i>
<i>Agency Fee</i>	\$3,500		\$1,000 each additional sibling
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$3,300		\$1,318 each additional sibling
Total Program Fee		\$19,600	\$5,635 total for each additional sibling
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
U.S.-Based Fees		\$5,500 –\$9,915	
<i>Monitoring and Oversight fee charged by accrediting entity. Fee 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>	\$1,500-\$2,000		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Shipping and/or translating of post adoption reports</i>	\$0		<i>Costs vary based on number of children you are adopting, Due upon receipt of referral.</i>
<i>Home study supporting documents</i>	\$225		<i>Cost for criminal clearances, obtaining physicals, and other mis. 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>Nigeria does not generally require a Psychological Evaluation however, may be required by home study agency or could be requested by Nigeria</i>
<i>USCIS Filing Fees</i>	\$920		<i>Includes I-800a application and biometrics for 2 adults</i>
<i>Dossier Apostille/Authentication & courier</i>	\$0		<i>Nigeria dossier only requires documents to be notarized. Costs vary by state for notarization.</i>
<i>Shipping/translation of dossier</i>	\$105-\$150		<i>Translation of Dossier is not required for Nigeria. Cost reflects shipping of the dossier. Due upon the submission of the dossier to Nightlight</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-\$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-\$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		\$20,020 – \$30,020	<i>Estimates are for 2 people and 1 trip for 90 days</i>
<i>Airfare (2 adults)</i>	\$2,500-\$4,000		
<i>Airfare for child (one way)</i>	\$1,000-\$1,500		<i>Depends on the child's age.</i>
<i>Visas (for 2 Adults)</i>	\$580		<i>This does not include transport to your nearest Nigerian consulate</i>
<i>Transportation and driver fee</i>	\$2,490		<i>\$83/day; estimate based on 30 days of driver use, some families may use the driver more. Includes driver's fee and gasoline</i>
<i>Housing (2 trips)</i>	\$8,000-\$15,000		<i>Depends on the taste of the family and length of lease</i>
<i>Food Expenses</i>	\$2,250		<i>\$25/day, Included in some guest housing options</i>
<i>Orphanage Donation</i>	\$2,000 - \$3,000		<i>Due at time of receipt of referral (per child to be adopted). Can vary depending on which orphanage your child is in.</i>
<i>Child's Nigerian Passport</i>	\$600		<i>Per child. Due to Nightlight upon receipt of referral</i>
<i>Child's medical exam and visa</i>	\$600		<i>Per child</i>
Total Other Costs (Est.)		\$25,520 – \$39,935	
TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES			

GRAND TOTAL**\$44,820 – \$59,535**

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
Nigeria

SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS	Nigeria
Home Study (including estimated out of pocket costs)	\$1,725 – 2,725
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)	\$11,850
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)	\$8,600
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.	\$2,000-\$3,000
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.	\$105-\$150
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.	\$1,000
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)	\$1,500-\$2,000
Travel/Accommodation Expenses: Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$16,240 – \$25,240
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.	\$2,100 – \$4,170

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Date:_____ **Adopting Parents:** _____