



## Nightlight® Christian Adoptions International Adoption Program Description Iran Adoptions

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Iran is a large, mountainous country located in Western Asia, at the crossroads of the Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia. It shares borders with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and Turkey, and has coastlines along the Caspian Sea to the north and the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman to the south. Iran has a population of over 88 million people, with Tehran as its capital and largest city. Iran is one of the world's most historically significant nations, with a civilization that dates back over 2,500 years to the ancient Persian empires, including the Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid dynasties. The country is known for its rich cultural traditions, Persian language and literature, Islamic architecture, and diverse landscapes, from deserts to lush forests and snowy mountains. Iran became an Islamic Republic in 1979 following a revolution that transformed it from a monarchy into a theocratic state. It has a predominantly Shia Muslim population and a government that combines religious and democratic elements. Despite political tensions in recent decades, Iran remains a center of regional influence, artistic heritage, and scientific development. Its national identity is strongly tied to the Persian language, ancient history, and a deep sense of cultural continuity. The Central Adoption Authority in Iran is the State Welfare Organization, which operates under the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour, and Social Welfare.

Guardianship cases from Iran are overseen by Behzisti, Iran's Welfare Organization, at the national level and handled at the provincial level once a child has been identified.

It is helpful to read about your country of interest on the U.S. Department of State website on intercountry adoptions:

- [www.adoption.state.gov](http://www.adoption.state.gov)

### CHILDREN AVAILABLE

- Children of either gender from infancy to less than 12 years of age are eligible for Guardianship and subsequent adoption from Iran and referred to families through the local courts/Behzisti. Most Iranian children eligible for intercountry adoption are relatively healthy or have mild/correctable medical diagnoses.

### ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

Childless, heterosexual couples of Shia Muslim faith married for at least five years and with one spouse at least 30 years of age can adopt from Iran. The prospective adoptive father must have Iranian citizenship or Iranian/US dual citizenship. At least one spouse must have US citizenship. Single women of Shia faith with dual Iranian/US citizenship may adopt female children only, single men are not accepted. Single women can expect an especially strenuous process and must be prepared to face many hurdles. Muslim prospective adopters without a criminal record and in good health with sufficient financial capacity to support a child are eligible. If a couple can provide a medical record of documented infertility in at least one spouse, the court may exempt them from the five-year marriage and minimum age requirements.

### PROCESS

1. For a proposed kinship adoption of a relative child, collect all required child documents and provide to Nightlight coordinator (proof of orphan status; parent death certificates or relinquishment of rights; medical evaluation; school and social report).
2. For all adoptions, complete our online application
3. Complete our International Adoption Services Contract & pay the Monitoring and Oversight fee. The Monitoring and Oversight fee is paid to the accrediting entity designated by the US Department of State/Office of Children's Issues, the US Central Authority.

4. Orientation meeting with Nightlight Staff, reviewing the intercountry adoption process from Iran. Review and return Service Plan.
5. Begin your Home Study with Nightlight or an approved Hague Accredited agency that is identified and approved by Nightlight.
6. Once your Home Study has been completed, Nightlight will review the Home Study and assist you with preparing your I-600A (Application for Advance Processing of an Orphan Petition): <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/forms/i-600a.pdf>.
7. Families may now file their application with Behzisti but cannot accept a referral until an approved I-600A has been received.
8. Iran Dossier: Nightlight will assist you in putting together the packet of documents required by the local courts and the US embassy.
9. Receive approval of the I-600A.
10. Submit your complete dossier for review by Nightlight. Dossiers can be hand-carried to Iran.
11. Families are now ready to travel and present themselves in person to request a referral (if not issued previously).
12. Upon receipt of a referral, Nightlight social services staff will review the specific child referral - medical, social, psychological reports with the family.
13. If the referral is accepted, the family will undergo the 6-month probationary custody period (requiring clinical supervision from both Iran as well as the family's home study agency), followed by the Guardianship process with the court and then by the I-600 and US visa processes.
14. Complete a minimum of 3 post placement reports and finalize the adoption via the court in your state of residence.

#### TRAVEL & ADOPTION

The Iran program requires a single stay that lasts approximately 12 consecutive months. Families should enter this stay with the clear understanding that at no point in time do we expect that any Iranian requirement, including the probationary custody period, will be shortened or waived. The trip begins with the wait for a referral (if not issued prior to travel). Once a referral has been presented and accepted, the case moves through the probationary custody period, then on to the court Guardianship process, and finally into the I-600 and US visa processes. Families can return home once a visa has been granted. Your child will arrive home under a Guardianship from a local Iranian court. This means that you must finalize your adoption in your state of residence by petitioning the court. Following finalization, you can obtain the child's Certificate of US Citizenship and US passport.

#### POST PLACEMENT/ADOPTION

Within 30 days of your arrival home, you must have a home visit by your home study provider. Post-placement/adoption reports are required at 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months from Guardianship. In accordance with state law, at least three reports must be generated by a social worker. Once the adoption has been finalized, reports can be family generated, if permissible by state law. Notarized reports must be sent to Nightlight. Iran may request family-generated reports until the child turns 18.

#### COSTS

The program fee for an adoption from Iran is \$17,650. 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, Robin Sizemore at [Robin.Sizemore@Nightlight.org](mailto:Robin.Sizemore@Nightlight.org) call (502) 423-5780





## 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**

**Iran Adoption Fees**

PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
<b>Application Phase</b>		\$600	<i>Due with application</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #1</b>		\$2,500	<i>Due upon application acceptance</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #2</b>		\$8,000	<i>Due upon completion of the Orientation call.</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #3</b>		\$5,150	<i>Due upon submission of the dossier</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #4</b>		\$1,400	<i>Due at submission of I-600 documents. If adopting more than one child additional fees of \$1000 per child</i>
<b>Total Program Fee</b>		<b>\$17,650</b>	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
<b>U.S.-Based Fees</b>		<b>\$14,035 - \$21,685</b>	
Monitoring and Oversight fee charged by accrediting entity. Per child	\$850		Due upon signing of Agreement for International Services \$850 for each additional child.
<i>Home Study</i>	\$1,500 - \$3,000		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Post Placement/Post Adoption Reports and court report</i>	\$5,800- \$7,500		<i>Costs vary by state/agency. Can be required through the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Family provides directly to Iranian CA.</i>
<i>Shipping and/or translating of Post Adoption Reports</i>	\$450-\$520		<i>Costs vary based on number of children adopted and number of reports required by the foreign country. 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 in-person and online education courses.</i>
<i>Home Study Review Fee</i>	\$300		<i>Review of home study prepared by an agency other than Nightlight. Paid to Nightlight when applicable</i>
<i>Home Study/USCIS update shipping and Translation fees</i>	\$120 - \$2,000		<i>Costs due upon shipping to country</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-600A application and biometrics for 2 adults</i>
<i>Dossier Apostille/Authentication &amp; courier fees</i>	\$350		<i>Dossier will be notarized only. Costs vary by state.</i>
<i>Shipping/translation of dossier</i>	\$750		<i>Paid to Nightlight when applicable</i>
<i>Medical review of referral</i>	\$0 - \$300		<i>Some physicians do not charge for this service. International adoption clinics will usually charge a fee for this.</i>
<i>Adoption Finalization</i>	\$1,500-\$3,000		<i>Cost Vary by State</i>
<i>Certificate of Citizenship - (COC)</i>	\$1,170		<i>Applies to families in guardianship countries. Your child will come home on an IR4 visa./guardianship..</i>
<b>Other In-Country Adoption Costs</b>		<b>\$3,500 – \$6,700</b>	
<i>Airfare (2 adults)</i>	\$2,000 - \$5,000		
<i>Airfare for child (one way)</i>	\$400 - \$600		<i>Depends on the child's age.</i>
<i>In Country Travel and Accommodations</i>	\$500		<i>6 months – 1 year in country. Most stay with relatives so only have expenses of food – no lodging.</i>
<i>Medical exam and visa</i>	\$600		
<b>Total Other Costs (Est.)</b>		<b>\$17,535 - \$28,385</b>	
<b>TOTAL FEES &amp; ESTIMATED EXPENSES</b>			
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$35,185 - \$46,035</b>	

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 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**

**Iran**

<b>SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>Iran</b>
Home Study (including estimated out of pocket costs)	\$1,725 - \$3,225
Adoption expenses in the US- Primary Provider Program fee (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)	\$18,500
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 international 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 guardianship).	\$0
Translation and Document Expenses: This is not a fee charged by NCA, although the family will have some expenses in Iran for translation and certification of documents.	\$1,100
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 international 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)	\$6,250 - \$8,020
Travel/Accommodation Expenses: Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$2,900 – \$6,100
Third Party Expenses: includes USCIS fees, courier services, and in country guide, child medical or visa costs if paid directly by the family rather than through Nightlight.	\$4,710 - \$6,090

**Please initial on both this page and the preceding page that you have received a copy of this List of Fees and Estimated Costs.**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Adopting Parents:** \_\_\_\_\_