



## Nightlight® Christian Adoptions International Adoption Program Description Georgia

### GENERAL INFORMATION

The ancient and historically significant country of Georgia borders Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia and Turkey. The climate is similar to the southeastern section of the United States. The terrain is mountainous and often lush, as evidenced by the beautiful sea sides and stunning views from every city vista. Georgia is the second nation to adopt Christianity as the national faith. More than half of the Georgian population lives in cities, including in the capital Tbilisi. Georgia is party to The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague Adoption Convention). Therefore, all intercountry adoptions between Georgia and the United States must meet the requirements of the Convention as well as Georgian and U.S. law implementing the Convention.

Adoptions from Georgia are conducted through a collaborative effort of a Hague accredited primary adoption service provider in the US and by the Georgian Central Adoption Authority (LEPL Agency For State Care and Assistance for the (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking (Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons From The Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs).

The following websites are a useful place to start for reading more about adopting from Georgia:

- <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/Intercountry-Adoption-Country-Information/Georgia.html>  
U.S. State Department page about Georgia adoption
- <http://atipfund.gov.ge>

- Children of either gender from toddler to teen are eligible for intercountry adoption.

- Sibling groups are rarely cleared for intercountry adoption.

- Most eligible children have known medical and/or developmental diagnoses, typically moderate to non-correctable.

### ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

Married couples and single women are eligible. A minimum age difference between prospective adoptive parents and a child of 18 years is required as is a maximum age difference of 49 years, unless an exception is made in the best interest of the child. Applicants must not have a criminal record or substance abuse history.

### PROCESS

1. Make application to Nightlight Christian Adoptions.
2. Complete your **adoption home study** and submit **form I-800A** to USCIS.
3. Begin to assemble your **dossier**. We will give you detailed instructions.
4. Once USCIS has approved your application, you will receive your **I-797C pre-approval notice**.
5. When your dossier is complete, it is shipped to Georgia and you will be registered to adopt.
6. The referral wait time is unpredictable and varies depending on a family's specific child request.
7. Issuance of a referral by Georgia's Central Adoption Authority.
8. Complete the official referral review with Nightlight's Social Services Department.
9. Upon referral acceptance, Nightlight will begin processing the family's I-800.
10. Once the I-800 is approved and the US embassy in Tbilisi has issued the Article 5 letter, a family will be invited to meet the child and undergo the court and US visa processes. This single trip takes about three weeks and both parents must travel.

### TRAVEL & ADOPTION

A referral from Georgia will include a brief social and medical history of the child, and the current health and development of the child.

We highly recommend that you have this information reviewed by a doctor who specializes in international adoption before you decide to proceed. You will complete a referral review with a Nightlight staff member before accepting the referral. If accepting the referral, Nightlight will assist you in filing your I-800 and obtaining your National Visa Center numbers for issuance of the Article 5 Letter by the US Embassy. Upon arrival in Georgia, you will have the opportunity to meet the child and spend time getting to know one another ahead of the previously scheduled court date. The court will issue a full and final adoption decree. Families are then assisted in obtaining the child's passport and wait for official translations of all post-adoption documents. When all documents necessary for the visa interview have been secured, the appointment at the US embassy takes place and the child's visa should be issued within a few days. Families can now return to the US with their new child.

#### **POST ADOPTION**

Within 30 days of your arrival home, you must have a home visit by your home study provider. Georgia requires five post-adoption reports at 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, and 36 months after the adoption is finalized. These reports include information about your child's health, developmental progress, and pictures. All reports must be social worker generated, notarized and apostilled. Georgia's Central Adoption Authority reserves the right to request family generated reports until the child turns 18. Nightlight is committed to showing the Georgian Central Adoption Authority that children adopted by US citizens are healthy and well care for by sending all required reports in a timely manner. Compliance with post adoption reports is also required by The Hague Convention.

#### **COSTS**

The program fee for a Georgia adoption is \$25,250. 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 Robin Sizemore at [Robin.Sizemore@Nightlight.org](mailto:Robin.Sizemore@Nightlight.org) or call (502-423-5780) with any questions.





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](mailto:info@nightlight.org).

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

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>		\$3,500	<i>Due upon completion of your Orientation call</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #3</b>		\$8,725	<i>Due upon submission of the dossier to Nightlight</i>
<i>Agency Fee</i>	\$5,125		
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$3,600		<i>Including Attorney fees and Translator/Admin Support fees</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #4</b>		\$9,025	<i>Due upon receipt of referral</i>
<i>Agency Fee</i>	\$5,125		\$1,000 each additional sibling
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$3,900		<i>Includes final adoption documents and translation/certification</i> \$1,750 each additional sibling
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #5</b>		\$1,400	<i>Due before travel</i>
<b>Total Program Fee</b>		<b>\$25,750</b>	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
<b>U.S.-Based Fees</b>		<b>\$8,945 – \$13,045</b>	
<i>Monitoring and Oversight fee charged by accrediting entity. Fee per child</i>	\$850		<i>Due upon signing the Agreement for International Services.</i> \$850 for each additional child
<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>	\$700-\$1000		<i>Costs vary based on number of children you are adopting.</i> <i>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>Georgia does not generally require a Psychological Evaluation however, may be required by home study agency or could be requested by Georgia</i>
<i>USCIS Filing Fees</i>	\$920		<i>Includes I-800a application and biometrics for 2 adults</i>
<i>Dossier Apostille/Authentication &amp; courier</i>	\$900-\$1,200		<i>Costs vary by state for notarization.</i>
<i>Shipping/translation of dossier</i>	\$2,250		<i>Cost reflects shipping and translation 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		<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>
<b>Other In-Country Adoption Costs</b>		<b>\$12,350 – \$14,350</b>	<i>Estimates are for 2 people and 1 trip for 25-30 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>	\$0		
<i>Transportation and Accommodations</i>	\$6,000		<i>\$200/day; estimate based on 25-30 days. Includes private apartment, interpreter/translator service &amp; local transportation. Does not include food or cook.</i>
<i>Food Expenses</i>	\$2,250		<i>\$25/day. Paid to proprietor</i>
<i>Child's medical exam and visa</i>	\$600		<i>Per child</i>
<b>Total Other Costs (Est.)</b>		<b>\$21,295 – \$27,395</b>	
<b>TOTAL FEES &amp; ESTIMATED EXPENSES</b>			
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$47,045 – \$53,145</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.

**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**  
**Georgia**

<b>SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS</b>		
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)		\$13,975
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)		\$7,500
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.		\$3,150-\$3,450
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)		\$2,200-\$3,000
Travel/Accommodation Expenses: Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.		\$11,750 – \$13,750
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.		\$7,045 – \$8,745

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