



## Nightlight® Christian Adoptions International Adoption Program Description Ghana

### GENERAL INFORMATION

The country of Ghana is one of the five African nations along the northern coastline of the Gulf of Guinea. It is bordered on the west by Cote d'Ivoire, on the north by Burkina Faso, and on the east by Togo. The country consists mostly of low-lying savannah regions, with a central belt of forest. For the last several decades, Ghana has been moving steadily toward political and economic stability and is currently one of the most peaceful nations in Africa. Unfortunately, Ghana's economy continues to struggle and many of its people live in abject poverty. Ghana 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 Ghana and the United States must meet the requirements of the Convention as well as Ghanaian and U.S. law implementing the Convention.

Adoptions from Ghana are conducted through a collaborative effort of a Hague accredited primary adoption service provider in the US and by the Ghanaian Central Adoption Authority (Department of Social Development - Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection).

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

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/Intercountry-Adoption-Country-Information/Ghana.html>

U.S. State Department page about Ghana adoption

- [mogcsp.gov.gh](http://mogcsp.gov.gh)

- Children of either gender from toddler to teen are eligible for intercountry adoption.
- Sibling groups are sometimes cleared for intercountry adoption.
- Children can be relatively healthy or have a variety of medical and/or developmental diagnosis. Histories of trauma are common. There is an increased need for potential adoptive parents open to adopting a child with special needs from Ghana. If you are interested in adopting a child with special needs, please reach out to the program coordinator.

### ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

Married heterosexual couples may adopt from Ghana. The country does not permit adoption by single parents with the exception of single women who hold dual Ghanaian and US citizenship. Single men may be approved case by case only when adopting a child that is a close relative. Parents must be between the ages of 25 and 55 and at least 21 years older than the child/children they wish to adopt. In kinship cases only, the prospective adoptive parents may be between 25 and 65 years of age. Applicants must be medically and financially fit to raise a child.

### PROCESS

1. For a proposed kinship adoption of a relative child, collect all required documents and provide to Nightlight's Coordinator (proof of orphan status, such as death certificates, relinquishment of rights, school and medical records, etc.)
2. Make application to Nightlight Christian Adoptions.
3. Complete your **adoption home study** and submit **form I-800A** to USCIS.
4. Begin to assemble your **dossier**. We will give you detailed instructions.
5. Once USCIS has approved your application, you will receive your **I-797C pre-approval notice**.
6. When your dossier is complete, it is shipped to Ghana and you will be registered to adopt.
7. The referral wait time is unpredictable and varies depending on a family's specific child request. In kinship adoptions, families can expect

more expeditious processing times.

8. Issuance of a referral by Ghana's Central Adoption Authority.
9. Complete the official referral review with Nightlight's Social Services Department.
10. Upon referral acceptance, Nightlight will begin processing the family's I-800.
11. Once the I-800 is approved, kinship adoptions will move directly into the court and US visa process. Families adopting a child not related to them, must travel to Ghana for the bonding period of at least 30 days. Following the bonding, the court and US visa processes will take place before a family may return to the US with the child.

## **TRAVEL & ADOPTION**

A referral from Ghana 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. If accepting the referral, Nightlight will assist you in filing your I-800 and preparing for travel. Adoptions from Ghana require 1-3 trips and depend on a family's ability to stay in country either for a single extended period of time (roughly 4-5 months) or to travel multiple times for the bonding period (30+ days and at least one prospective parent must be continuously present), then for the court hearing (7-10 days) and finally for the US visa process (about two weeks). Families adopting a relative usually make a single trip for the court hearing and US visa process.

## **POST ADOPTION**

Within 30 days of your arrival home, you must have a home visit by your home study provider. Ghana requires seven post-adoption reports at 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, and 3 years, 4 years and 5 years after the adoption is finalized. These reports include information about your child's health, developmental progress, and pictures. The first two reports must be social worker generated, notarized and apostilled. The remaining reports are family generated. All reports must be submitted via Nightlight to Ghana's Central Adoption Authority. Nightlight is committed to showing Ghana's 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 an Ghana adoption is \$33,025. 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 Abigail Szostak at [Abigail@Nightlight.org](mailto:Abigail@Nightlight.org) or call our office at (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](mailto:info@nightlight.org).

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

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>		\$13,668	<i>Due upon submission of the dossier to Nightlight</i>
<i>Agency Fee</i>	\$7,700		
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$3,910		<i>Including translations, legalization of documents, service legal fees as well as medicals, BC and police report on child</i>
<i>Foreign Central Authority fee</i>	\$2,058		<i>Per child</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #4</b>		\$9,330	<i>Due upon receipt of referral</i>
<i>Agency Fee</i>	\$3,450		<i>\$1,000 each additional sibling</i>
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$5,600		<i>\$1,000 each additional sibling/ \$500 for relative cases</i>
<i>Foreign Central Authority Fee</i>	\$280		<i>Article 23, Letter for birth or death certificate, letter to passport office, other finalization documents</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #5</b>		\$3,427	<i>Due at court phase</i>
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$3,427		<i>Facilitation fee, Attestation and processing of court order/ passport, visa medical and visa fees for child</i>
<b>Total Program Fee</b>		<b>\$33,025</b>	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
<b>U.S.-Based Fees</b>		<b>\$9,745 – \$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. \$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>	\$700-\$1,000		<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>	\$500		<i>Ghana does require a Psychological Evaluation</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>\$11,520 – \$19,820</b>	<i>Estimates are for 2 people and 1-2 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>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>	\$2,700-\$9,000		<i>\$90-\$300 per day depending on the desired level of service and location. These fees estimated for 30 days. Stay in country could be up to 90 days. These fees estimated as some families decide to stay with relatives while traveling.</i>
<i>Food Expenses</i>	\$2,250		<i>\$25/day, Included in some guest housing options</i>

Total Other Costs (Est.)	\$21,265 – \$32,865
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TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES

GRAND TOTAL	\$54,290 – \$65,890
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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  
**Ghana**

<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)	\$18,900
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)	\$12,937
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.	\$2,338
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.	\$11,520 – \$19,820
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.	\$1,520 – \$2,720

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