

Nightlight® Christian Adoptions

International Adoption Program Description

Guyana



GENERAL INFORMATION

Guyana is a country located in the northeastern corner of [South America](#). [Indigenous](#) peoples inhabited Guyana prior to European settlement, and their name for the land, *guiana* (“land of water”), gave the country its name. Present-day Guyana reflects its British and Dutch colonial past and its reactions to that past. It is the only English-speaking country of South America. Since Guyana gained its independence in 1966, the country’s chief economic assets have been its natural resources, mainly its pristine rainforests, sugarcane plantations, rice fields, and bauxite and gold reserves. Despite those riches, Guyana remained one of the poorest countries in South America into the first decades of the 21st century, but the country’s economic fortunes changed dramatically in 2015 with the first of a raft of rich deep water oil field discoveries in Guyana’s offshore Stabroek Block.

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

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

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

- Children 0-12 years old of either gender are eligible for intercountry adoption.
- Children over the age of 12 can be relatively medically healthy.

KINSHIP ADOPTIONS

Families pursuing a kinship adoption of an eligible child relative can expect to follow the same steps as all other families with the exception of not having a referral wait time and possibly receiving a waiver in terms of having to meet the child. Please keep in mind that not all proposed kinship cases will be viable, and Nightlight reserves the right to assess each case individually and determine whether or not a family should proceed.

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

Guyanese law requires that prospective adoptive parents be older than eighteen (18) years of age and less than sixty-five (65) years of age to adopt. Additionally, the age difference between the adoptive parents and adoptive child(ren) must not be more than fifty (50) years or less than seventeen (17) years. The applicants must still meet the requirements of their state of residence and the US federal government. Applicants will be assessed case by case and must undergo a psychological evaluation. Single men and women are allowed to adopt however, single men may not adopt a female child.

PROCESS

1. Make application to Nightlight Christian Adoptions.
2. Begin 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 adoption home study, you will receive your **I-800A pre-approval notice**.
5. Once your USCIS approval has been received your dossier is complete, you will be apply to the adoption authority in Guyana.
6. The Guyana Central Authority will add you to a list of waiting families.
7. Once you receive a referral from the Central Authority, you will complete official referral review with Nightlight's Social Services Department
8. Upon referral acceptance, you will file your I-800 application to USCIS.
9. You will then travel to Guyana for the required bonding period and then remain in country for the court adoption process.
10. Once you have received the adoption decree, the attorney will obtain a new birth certificate and passport for your child.
11. The final step is to obtain the US visa for your child and returning home. Guyana is a new program and we are not certain at this time how long you will remain in Guyana to complete this process. Kinship adoption travel could be shorter.

TRAVEL & ADOPTION

A referral from Guyana will include a comprehensive social and medical history of the child, if known, 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 make a decision to proceed. Adoptions from Guyana require 1-2 trips for families to attend court and undergo the US visa process. Non-kinship families must be prepared to stay in Guyana longer and this time will include the bonding, followed by the court process, and the US visa process.

POST ADOPTION

Within 30 days of your arrival home, you must have a home visit by your home study provider. The Adoption authority in Guyana requires a minimum of 4 post adoption reports to be completed by your home study provider at 6 months, 12 months, 18 months and 2 years from the court finalization date. Adoptive families must still comply with any post-adoption reporting required by their US state of residence and Nightlight, in the best interest of the child.

COSTS

The program fee for a Guyana adoption is \$18,500. 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 Monique Swain at Monique@Nightlight.org or call our office at (336)-899-0068 with any questions.





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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.

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

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		\$3,500	<i>Due upon completion of your Orientation call</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #3		\$7,900	<i>Due upon submission of the dossier to Nightlight</i>
<i>Agency Fee</i>	\$4,900		
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$3,000		<i>Attorney/FSP fee. Including legal fees, submission of dossier, court appearances and other preparation of documents.</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #4		\$2,500	<i>Due upon receipt of referral</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #5		\$1,500	<i>Due at court phase</i>
Total Program Fee		\$18,500	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
U.S.-Based Fees		\$9,745 – \$13,145	
<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>	\$0-100		<i>Paid to Nightlight when applicable</i>
<i>Psychological Evaluation/2 parents</i>	\$500		<i>Guyana 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 & 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>
Other In-Country Adoption Costs		\$6,000 – \$12,250	<i>Estimates are for 2 people and 1-2 trip for 90 days</i>
<i>Airfare (2 adults)</i>	\$2,500-\$5,000		<i>2 trips. Paid directly to airline</i>
<i>Airfare for child (one way)</i>	\$1,000-\$1,500		<i>Depends on the child's age.</i>
<i>In Country Travel & Accommodations</i>	\$2,000-\$5,000		<i>If completing a relative adoption or you are Guyanese these fees may be N/A</i>
<i>Child's passport, visa, medical & post adoption documents</i>	\$500-\$750		
Total Other Costs (Est.)		\$15,745 – \$25,395	
TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES			
GRAND TOTAL		\$34,245 – \$43,895	

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

Guyana

SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS	
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)	\$15,500
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 convention country)	\$3,000
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.	\$5,500 – \$11,500
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.	\$3,170 – \$4,720

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Date: _____ Adopting Parents: _____