

Nightlight® Christian Adoptions

International Adoption Program Description

Colombia



GENERAL INFORMATION

Colombia is a country at the northern tip of South America. Its landscape is marked by rainforests, Andes mountains and numerous coffee plantations. It is the third most populous country in South America. In the high- altitude capital, Bogotá, the Zona Rosa district is known for its restaurants and shops and is a pleasure to visit among tourists. Colombia has a tropical temperate climate with little seasonal variation. The Hispanic culture is warm and friendly. There is a domestic adoption program available to Colombian citizens – these families generally get preference in child placement before foreign adopters.

Colombia 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 Colombia and the United States must meet the requirements of the Convention and U.S. law implementing the Convention. Colombian adoptions are conducted through a collaborative effort of a Hague accredited adoption agency in the U.S. and by the Colombian Central Adoption Authority (ICBF).

Information on international adoptions from Colombia on the U.S. Department of State web site:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/country-information/learn-about-a-country/colombia.html>

Information on the country of Colombia on the U.S. Department of State web site: <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/co/>

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

Single children above age 7, sibling groups (one child is above age 10), and children of all ages with various special needs are available.

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

- Parents age 25 to 55 years can adopt special needs children age 0-5. Parents age 56 to 59 can adopt special needs children age 6 to 9.
- At least one parent has to be over 25 years of age.
- Single women and men are accepted into the program.
- A couple has to be married for at least 2 years.

REFERRALS

Referrals are provided by ICBF in Colombia. The referral will contain basic information on child's medical and social background and pictures. Referral time depends on the profiles of the child(ren) a family looks to adopt.

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 registered to adopt in Colombia.
6. The Colombian Central Authority will add you to a list of waiting families and it can take 6 to 12 months to receive a referral.
7. 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 Colombia for the required 9-day integration 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. Most families will remain in Colombia for 5-6 weeks for the adoption process to be completed.
12. The children reside in orphanages while awaiting adoption.
13. Colombia adoptions can take on average from 14 to 24 months to complete.

TRAVEL

Only 1 trip is required for adoption from Colombia. Once you are in country, you will meet your child and he/she will be with you for the duration of your stay. The first 9 days with your child is considered an "integration period." Then adoption will be finalized while you are in country. A new birth certificate and passport will be issued. After an exit interview with the US Embassy you will be able to leave the country with your child(ren). This takes approximately 5-6 weeks.

POST ADOPTION

Within 30 days of your arrival home, you must have a home visit by your home study provider. Your home study provider will prepare post-adoption reports and submit them to Nightlight. For single children under age 8, reports are due at 6, 12, 18 and 24 months after your adoption finalization date. For children over the age of 8 and siblings, reports are due at 6, 12, 18, 24, 30 and 36 months after your adoption finalization date. These reports include your child's developmental progress and pictures. This is a very serious commitment. Compliance with post adoption reports is also required by The Hague Convention. Therefore, Nightlight charges a fee to monitor and process these post placement reports and also requires families to pay for the cost of the post placement report in advance.

COSTS

The agency program fees as well as other fees both in the US and in country for a Colombia adoption are listed below. 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 Rebecca Tolson, Rebecca@Nightlight.org (502) 423-5780, ext. 212 with any questions.





nightlight

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
 COLOMBIA

PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
Application Fee		\$600	<i>Due with application.</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #1		\$2,500	<i>Due upon application acceptance.</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #2		\$3,000	<i>Due upon completion of the Orientation Call. Includes Humanitarian aid donation</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #3		\$9,200	<i>Due prior to dossier submission to the country. \$2500 discount for Colombian citizens</i>
<i>Agency Fee</i>	\$4,000		
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$5,200		
Nightlight Program Fee #4		\$10,100	<i>Due upon receipt of referral</i>
<i>Agency Fee</i>	\$4,000		<i>\$1000 sibling fee</i>
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$6,100		
Total Program Fee		\$25,400	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
U.S.-Based Fees		\$13,320-\$19,305	
<i>Monitoring and Oversight fee charged by accrediting entity. Per child</i>	\$850		<i>Due upon signing the Agreement for International Services. \$850 for each additional child collected at referral.</i>
<i>Home Study</i>	\$1,500-\$2,500		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Home Study Supporting Documents</i>	\$100-\$225		<i>Cost for criminal clearances, obtaining physicals, and other misc. 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>USCIS Filing Fees</i>	\$920		<i>Includes I-800A application and biometrics for all family members</i>
<i>Home Study/USCIS Update Shipping and Translation Fees</i>	\$25-\$260		<i>Paid to Nightlight when applicable</i>
<i>Psychological Evaluation</i>	\$2,000-\$2,500		<i>Varies by provider</i>
<i>Dossier Authentication & Courier Fees</i>	\$250-\$500		<i>Varies by state</i>
<i>Translation & Shipping</i>	\$5,000 - \$6,000		<i>\$5000 will be collected when dossier is submitted to Nightlight Translation of child dossier due upon receipt of referral. This can be more for families adopting sibling groups</i>
<i>Post Adoption Reports</i>	\$1,200-\$2,400		<i>Costs vary by state/agency. (Per child) An additional \$100 per report will be charged for each sibling if Nightlight is completing your reports.</i>
<i>Translation and shipping - of post adoption reports</i>	\$1,000		<i>(per child) Cost may vary depending on the number and ages of children you are adopting, due upon receipt of referral.</i>
<i>Medical Review of Referral</i>	\$0-\$500		<i>Some physicians do not charge for this service. International adoption clinics will usually charge a fee for this.</i>
<i>Referral Acceptance Package & Shipping</i>	\$75-\$250		<i>Due upon receipt of referral.. Cost varies by size/weight of package.</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		\$11,500-\$19,850	<i>Estimates are for 2 people and 1 trip</i>
<i>Attorney Fee</i>	\$2,500-\$2,800		<i>Due at receipt of referral</i>
<i>IAPA Administrative Fee</i>	\$0 - \$4,000		<i>Due upon receipt of referral if child is through a private institution. Fee depends on specific IAPA. Not applicable to ICBF cases.</i>
<i>IAPA Medical Fee</i>	\$0-\$900		<i>Dependent upon private medical fees incurred by IAPA. Cost is per child. Not applicable to ICBF cases.</i>
<i>Airfare (2 adults)</i>	\$1,600-\$2,500		<i>Paid directly to airline.</i>
<i>Airfare for child (one way)</i>	\$750-\$1,000		<i>Paid directly to airline.</i>
<i>Visas (for 2 Adults)</i>	\$480		<i>Paid directly to Colombian travel ministry prior to travel. Not applicable to Colombian citizens.</i>
<i>In Country Travel & Accommodations</i>	\$3,000-\$5,000		<i>Estimated for 4-6 weeks. Includes housing, food, and non-adoption related transportation. Paid directly to providers.</i>
<i>Travel expenses for FSP</i>	\$400		<i>Only applies to cases outside of Bogota</i>
<i>Transportation to Adoption-Related Appts.</i>	\$970		<i>Due upon receipt of referral. Extraordinary adoption related transportation will be invoiced while in country.</i>
<i>Child's Passport, Visa, Visa Medical Exam, TB test & Documents</i>	\$1,500		<i>Due upon receipt of referral. Cost per child. Does not include vaccines (pay to provider at medical exam.</i>
<i>Adoption Documents</i>	\$300		<i>Paid directly to providers while in country. Cost per child</i>
Total Other Costs (Est.)		\$24,820-\$39,155	
TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES			

GRAND TOTAL**\$50,220-\$64,555**

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

Colombia

SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAUGE REQUIREMENTS	Colombia
Home Study (including estimated out of pocket costs)	\$2,100 – \$4,525
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)	\$14,950
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)	\$11,300
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-\$4,000
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.	\$5,025 – \$6,260
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 – \$3,700
Travel/Accommodation Expenses: Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$5,350 – \$8,500
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.	\$9,295 – \$11,320

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