

Nightlight® Christian Adoptions

International Adoption Program Description

Mexico



GENERAL INFORMATION

Mexico, officially the United Mexican States, is bordered by the United States to the north and Belize and Guatemala to the southeast. Mexico is about one-fifth the size of the United States. Baja California in the west is an 800-mile (1,287-km) peninsula that forms the Gulf of California. In the east are the Gulf of Mexico and the Bay of Campeche, which is formed by Mexico's other peninsula, the Yucatán. The center of Mexico is a great, high plateau, open to the north, with mountain chains on the east and west and with ocean-front lowlands beyond. It is the second most populous country in Latin America. Mexico is a federation comprising thirty-one states and a Federal District, its capital and largest city. It is a country characterized by the warm and friendly treatment among its people, its strong indigenous roots, and an identity construction marked by pride in its traditions, due to significant historical and social processes.

The Hague Convention

Mexico 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 Mexico and the United States must meet the requirements of the Convention and U.S. law implementing the Convention. Mexican adoptions are conducted through a collaborative effort of a Hague accredited adoption agency in the U.S. and by the Mexican Central Adoption Authority (DIF). Information on international adoptions from Mexico on the U.S. Department of State web site: <https://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/country-information/learn-about-a-country/mexico.html>

CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

- Single children above age 5.
- Non-medical special needs children are age 9+.
- Children of all ages with various special needs.
- Sibling groups.

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

- The age difference between adoptive parents and a child should be at least 18 but not be more than 45 years. (Not Applicable for Relative Adoption)
- Parents must be over age 25.
- Single women are accepted into the program.
- A couple has to be married for at least 2 years.

PROCESS

Mexico adoptions can take an average of 24 to 36 months to complete, each case varying

Two to four trips to Mexico are likely required, though each Mexican state may have different requirements. The length of the trips may range from 3 days to 3 weeks in length

1. **Apply** to Nightlight
2. Complete your orientation process and start the **home study**.
3. When the home study is complete, send your I-800a (pre-visa) form to USCIS (we'll give you instructions)
4. When your **I-800A** has been approved, you'll send a dossier with various documents in it to Mexico.

5. The **dossier** will be officially translated and then submitted to the National DIF office for their approval.
6. Once approved, your dossier will be sent to the State DIF office you'll be working with. If you are adopting a relative, it will be sent to the State DIF office in the state where the child lives. If you are asking to adopt a **waiting child**, we will direct your dossier to a Mexican state that will hopefully be able to refer you a child within **6-12 months**. You will travel to Mexico and spend a week to two weeks of supervised time with the child you hope to adopt, whether you are related to the child or not.
7. When the family is approved, it is time for the referral. **Referrals** are provided by National System for Family Development (**DIF**) of the Mexican state the child resides in. 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.
8. you'll complete an official referral review with Nightlight's Social Services Department.
9. Then you'll file form **I800** with USCIS (we'll give you the instructions).
10. When the I-800 is approved, if you are not a Mexican/US dual citizen or a Mexican citizen, you'll get a **Mexican adoption visa** from your nearest Mexican Consulate and you'll get a Mexican Migratory Card for Purposes of Adoption in Mexico. We'll explain how to do that.
11. Based on the approval of the I-800 form, a form **DS-260** needs to be complete with the US Consulate in Ciudad Juarez, who will then issue a document called an **Article 5** letter, which is sent to the National DIF office in Mexico City and then to the State DIF office where your child is located. At that point, your case can be prepared and presented to court to request the final decree of adoption.
12. The court will set a date for a hearing at which you'll need to be present in Mexico.
13. After the **final decree** is issued (which may be some time after the hearing), you will return to Mexico to request the child's corrected **birth certificate** (now with your surnames), and then you'll return home again to wait for events to be scheduled for your final trip to Mexico.
14. The final trip generally takes about a week to 10 days: You'll pick up the child, go to Mexico City to apply for their **passport** and pick up a document at the Secretary of Foreign Relations (**Article 23**), then fly to Ciudad Juarez for the child's appointment at the US Consulate-approved Medical Clinic, and then make 2-3 trips to the US Consulate to complete the process.
15. At that point, you can bring your child across the border into El Paso and send us a photo of your triumphant arrival!

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 every 6 months after homecoming for the first three years. 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 Mexico 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 Camila Ariza (Program Coordinator) camila@nightlight.org or call (502) 423-5780 x136 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
- Read and sign the Terms and conditions for Viewing Waiting Children Profiles
- Read and sign the Fundraising Agreement
- Read and sign the Notice of Technology Based Services
- 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
Mexico

PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
Application Fee		\$600	<i>Due with application</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #1		\$2,500	<i>Due application acceptance</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #2		\$3,500	<i>Due upon completion of the Orientation Call</i>
Nightlight Program Fee #3		\$6,000	<i>Due prior to dossier submission to the country.</i>
<i>Nightlight Program Fee</i>	\$1,500		
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$4,500		
Nightlight Program Fee #4		\$6,000	<i>Due upon receipt of referral</i>
<i>Nightlight Program Fee</i>	\$3,000		<i>\$1,000 sibling fee</i>
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$3,000		
Nightlight Program Fee #5		\$3,500	<i>Due upon notice to travel</i>
<i>Nightlight program fee</i>	\$2,000		
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$1,500		
Total Program Fee		\$22,100	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
U.S.-Based Fees		\$10,445 –\$13,970	
<i>Monitoring and Oversight fee charged by accrediting entity. Per child</i>	\$850		<i>Due upon signing the Agreement for International Services \$850 per additional child</i>
<i>Home Study</i>	\$1,500-\$2,500		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</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 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>Psychological Evaluation/ 2 Parents</i>	\$250-\$500		<i>Mexico requires a psychological evaluation for both the dossier and the home study.</i>
<i>Dossier Apostille & Courier Fees</i>	\$250-\$500		<i>Dossier will be apostilled through the Secretary of State. Costs vary by state</i>
<i>Shipping/Translation of Dossier and Referral</i>	\$2,500		<i>Due when dossier is submitted to Nightlight</i>
<i>Shipping of Documents within Mexico</i>	\$250		<i>Due when dossier is submitted to Nightlight</i>
<i>USCIS Filing Fees</i>	\$920		<i>Includes I-800A application & biometrics for all family members</i>
<i>Home study/USCIS Update Shipping and Translation Fees</i>	\$75-\$300		<i>Paid to Nightlight when applicable</i>
<i>Medical Review of Referral</i>	\$0-\$200		<i>Some physicians do not charge for this service. International adoption clinics will usually charge a fee for this.</i>
<i>Post Adoption Reports</i>	\$1,800-\$2,400		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Shipping and/or Translating of Post Adoption Reports</i>	\$1000		<i>Costs may vary depending upon the number of children and state your child is adopted from, Due at receipt of referral.</i>
<i>Visa/Migratory Card for Non-Nationals</i>	\$425		<i>Cost is for 2 adults, required for non-Mexican citizens. Due upon notice to travel</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		\$4,050 – \$11,500	
<i>Airfare (2 adults)</i>	\$800-\$1,500		<i>Per trip</i>
<i>Airfare for Child (one way)</i>	\$750-\$1,000		
<i>In Country Travel, Accommodations, Meals</i>	\$500-\$6,000		<i>Estimated for 2 adults. 2 to 4 trips. Each trip varies; 3 days to 3 weeks.</i>
<i>Child Documents in Country</i>	\$500		<i>Due while travelling in country</i>
<i>Child's Visa & Medical</i>	\$1,000		
<i>Additional Foreign Attorney Fee</i>	\$500-\$1,500		<i>Dependent on child location in Mexico (does not apply in every case). Due upon receipt of referral</i>
Total Other Costs (Est.)		\$14,495 – \$25,470	
TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES			
GRAND TOTAL		\$36,595 - \$47,570	

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

Mexico

SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS	Mexico
Home Study (including estimated out of pocket costs)	\$1,750–\$3,000
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)	\$13,950
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)	\$9,000
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.	\$2,675-\$2,900
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)	\$2,800–\$3,400
Travel/Accommodation Expenses: Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$2,050-\$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.	\$5,220–\$8,040

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