

Nightlight® Christian Adoptions International Adoption Program Description

China



GENERAL INFORMATION

The People's Republic of China is the world's most populated country estimating 1.37 billion people. It is a nation located in East Asia with a massive landscape consisting of grassland, desert, mountains, lakes, rivers and nearly 8700 miles of coastline. Beijing, it's capitol, blends historical sites such as the Forbidden City palace and Tiananmen Square with modern architecture. Shanghai is a global financial center with a skyscraper-studded skyline. The iconic Great Wall of China runs east to west across the northern part of the country. China 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 China and the United States must meet the requirements of the Convention and U.S. law implementing the Convention.

Chinese adoptions are conducted through a collaborative effort of a Hague accredited adoption agency in the US and by the China Center for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA), its Central Adoption Authority. Nightlight offers an adoption program from China for parents who are interested in adopting a waiting child with an identified medical need or an older child.

The following websites are a useful place to start for reading more about China adoption and the country:

- <http://cccwaen.mca.gov.cn/> - China Center for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA)
- <https://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/country-information/learn-about-a-country/china.html> - U.S. State Department page regarding China adoptions
- <http://www.cnto.org/> - China National Tourist Office
- www.fwcc.org: Families with Children from China (F.C.C.)

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

- Both boys and girls are available for adoption
- Children as young as 12 months and as old as 14 are available for adoption
 - adoption must be completed before the child's 14th birthday
- Special Needs program - all children available have an identified medical need
- "Healthy/Older" children between the ages of 8 and 14 are available. While these children may not have an identified medical issue, most have lived in an institution throughout their lives, which must be considered.
- Referral times range from 1 to 15 months and are dependent on the prospective adoptive parent's openness to gender, age range and medical needs they are willing to consider.

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

The CCCWA released new eligibility requirements effective June 30, 2017. Their current laws state the following:

1. Age – Both Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) must be a minimum of 30 years old. There can be no more than 50 years between the youngest PAP and child to be adopted.
2. Marital Status – only married heterosexual couples or single heterosexual women adopt. Neither party should have more than 2 divorces. If there is no divorce history or only 1 divorce between the couple, the current marriage should be at least 2 years. If one party has two divorces, the current marriage should be at least 5 years. Widowhood does not count as a divorce.
3. Health Status – PAPs should be physically and mentally fit, with the ability to raise and educate the adopted child without any of the following:
 - a. Intellectual disability;
 - b. HIV positive or infectious disease that is actively contagious;

- c. Schizophrenia;
 - d. Mental disorder including mania, depression, bipolar affective disorder, anxiety and phobia, etc.
 - i. PAPs with minor symptoms under good control with medicine may be exempt with a Psychological evaluation from a psychological professional assessing that the disorder does not affect their normal work and life and they are fit to care and educate the adoptee.
 - e. Binocular blindness, binocular low vision or monocular blindness with no ocular prosthesis;
 - f. Severe facial deformity;
 - g. Binaural hearing loss or language function loss
 - i. PAPs may adopt a child with an identical condition
 - ii. EXEMPT if one party of the couple is healthy
 - h. Non-function or dysfunction of limbs or trunk caused by impairment, incomplete limb, paralysis or deformation;
 - i. Diseases that require long-term treatment and have a poor prognosis which will affect PAPs child caring ability. This includes lupus, nephrosis, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, etc.
 - i. EXEMPT for couples where one party is completely healthy and the other suffers any such disease but is under good control after treatment.
 - ii. Must provide a doctor's note to attest that the illness has no effects on normal work and life and fit to care for adoptee;
 - j. Cancer
 - i. Skin, thyroid, breast and testicular cancer that has been cured for at least 3 years
 - ii. Other cancer or malignant tumor cured at least 5 years;
 - k. Vital Organ Transplant within 10 years
 - i. EXEMPT for couples if one party is healthy and the other had a transplant less than 10 years ago but has recovered to live a normal life.
 - l. Body Mass Index less than 40 ($BMI = \text{weight (kg)} / \text{height}^2(\text{m}^2)$)
 - m. Short stature or dwarfism; PAPs may adopt a child with identical condition.
4. Family Financial Condition
- a. At least one party of the couple should have stable occupation and income;
 - b. Annual Income
 - i. Couple Adoptions = \$10,000 per family member, including the child to be adopted;
 - ii. Single Parent adoptions = \$10,000 for the actual number of family members after the adoption PLUS one additional person
 - c. Net Worth (Assets minus Liabilities)
 - i. Couple adoptions = \$80,000
 - ii. Single = \$100,000
 - d. Welfare allowances such as relief fund, pension, disability benefits, adoption subsidy, foster care subsidy and disabled child subsidy, etc. are not to be included
 - e. Relaxation is granted to foreigners (ex-pats) living in China
5. Moral Character
- a. PAPs should have no record of criminal penalties, good moral character, honorable behavior and abide by the laws and regulations, without any of the following:
 - i. History of Domestic violence, sex abuse, abandonment/abuse of children (even if they were not arrested or convicted);
 - ii. History of taking drugs, including opium, morphine, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, etc.
 - iii. History of alcohol abuse and stopped less than 10 years ago
 - b. Due consideration is given when PAPs have had no more than 3 criminal records with minor violations and no severe outcomes and the time for correction has been 10 years or more; or have had no more than 5 traffic law violations with no severe outcomes.
6. Children in the House
- a. The adoption of orphans, disabled children, or abandoned infants and children whose parents cannot be found are not subject to the requirements that the adopter should be childless.
 - b. The PAPs should have enough time and energy to care for the minors in the house, including the child to be adopted.
 - i. Couples should have no more than 5 minors in the household
 - ii. Singles should have no more than 2 in the home
 - c. The youngest child in the home should be at least 3 years old.
7. Adoption Frequency and Numbers
- a. Adopters should submit post placement reports as required after the adoption;
 - b. There should be 1 year between the second adoption application and the previous (from registration date of previous adoption to the current adoption application date)
 - c. PAPs should adopt 1 child from China at a time;
 - d. Couples may adopt twins or multiple births or those who have siblings.

8. Other

- a. PAPs should receive appropriate pre-adoption training to have correct cognition and understand the risks of inter-country adoption and be fully prepared for the adoption and to care for the child to be adopted;
- b. PAPs should promise not to abandon or maltreat the child to be adopted;
- c. PAPs should promise to submit post placement reports as required;
- d. For PAPs residing in a country other than the USA, if they intend to adopt from China, should reside in a country which has a cooperative relationship with China in inter-country adoption, or in contracting states of the Hague Convention;
- e. These rules do not apply to stepchild adoptions.
- f. As for the adoption of a child belonging to a blood relative of the same generation and up to the 3rd degree of kinship, relaxation will be granted properly.
- g. Time or age is calculated based on the adoption application dossier log-in date at CCCWA.
- h. These rules are effective as of June 30, 2017.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Our China program began in Kentucky with A Helping Hand Adoption Agency in 1996. A Helping Hand later merged with Nightlight in 2014. Our agency works directly with the CCCWA (China Center for Children's Welfare and Adoption) and a liaison in Beijing. Nightlight has a long history of successful placements through our China program and our fees are very comparable to most other agencies.

The CCCWA maintains a list of children's files who are available for adoption on their Child Placement Information System (CPIS). The CPIS is a secure database that is accessed electronically by adoption agencies that have a waiting child program with the CCCWA. Children are placed into two categories: Non-Special Focus and Special Focus.

- Non-Special Focus Children – Non-Special Focus (NSF) children are added to the list on a regular basis and are only available to families who have a Log-In Date (LID). In other words, your adoption paperwork (dossier) has been filed and registered with the CCCWA. Typically, these children are younger with minor or correctable medical needs or healthy older children. The Nightlight China Department monitors the list as it is released in real time and searches for children who meet the criteria of our waiting families. When a child is locked for a family from the NSF list, a 72 hour hold is put on the child's file so that the family can make a decision based on the referral information received which includes medical information as well as social and developmental history. The family must make a decision within 48 hours so that additional paperwork and translations can be completed before the 72-hour time period expires.
- Special Focus Children – Special Focus Children (SF) are those who have moderate to severe medical needs OR children who were initially assigned to other agencies but were not matched. Families can usually be matched with a child from the Special Focus list before they begin the adoption process and will be given 6 months to complete their home study and dossier paperwork. Currently, China is not issuing any waivers for families who do not meet eligibility requirements.
- Agency List – Nightlight is able to choose Special Focus children from the shared list to be placed on our individual agency list. Nightlight is given the opportunity to advocate to find homes for those children for a minimum of 60 days. Families interested in the children on Nightlight's individual list may have additional time to review a child's file before making a decision.

PROCESS

Some families can be pre-matched with a child and then begin the process. Others prefer to begin the process and be logged in before being matched with a child. Regardless of the path you choose, these steps must be followed:

1. Submit an application to Nightlight Christian Adoptions.
2. Complete an adoption home study.
3. Prepare an I-800A form to be granted approval by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS). In the most basic terms, this process grants a pre-approval for you to bring an orphaned child into the US as a citizen.
4. Gather documents which will go through a certification and authentication process to become your dossier. (We will help you through the certification and authentication process.) This step can be worked on concurrently with the adoption home study.
5. Be matched by Nightlight with a child meeting your preferences. Have the file reviewed by a medical professional and, once you are committed, submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) packet to the CCCWA indicating your desire to adopt the specific child.
6. Within 1-2 weeks after the CCCWA receives and approves your Letter of Intent, you will be issued a Pre-Approval (PA).
7. If your dossier has already been submitted and logged in with the CCCWA, the review of your dossier will be expedited. If you do not have your dossier logged in at the time you are matched with a Special Focus child, you will be given 6 months to submit your dossier to the CCCWA. Once it is complete, it will be sent along with your PA, logged in and reviewed.
8. A Letter of Approval (LOA) will be received from the CCCWA officially matching you with the child and allowing you to move forward with the completion of the adoption in country. The timing of the LOA is dependent on whether or not your dossier has already been reviewed. If your dossier has already been reviewed, you can expect to receive your LOA within 1-2 weeks

after you LOI is submitted. If you log in your dossier after you are matched with a child, it can take approximately 2-4 months after log in to receive your LOA.

9. Complete official referral review with Nightlight's Social Services Department
10. Upon receipt and acceptance of the LOA, a travel meeting is held with the agency to explain the final adoption processes and travel procedures. A family can expect to travel in 2.5-4 months from the acceptance of the LOA. During this period, the agency will guide you through several steps that help your family receive Travel Approval (TA).
11. Travel to China generally takes place 3-4 weeks after your family receives TA. Most families enter China in Beijing and then travel to their child's province to finalize the adoption. The average stay in China is approximately 14 days. Some provinces require a longer period of time to process the child's passport once the adoption is finalized.
12. Travel to the U.S. Consulate in Guangzhou, China to receive your child's visa to enter the United States.
13. Bring your child home from China!

ADOPTION & TRAVEL

Typically, families travel approximately 2.5 to 4 months after receiving their LOA. More specifically, they will travel 3-4 weeks after receiving TA. This depends on how quickly the visa appointment at the US Consulate can be scheduled by our agency. When possible, families are organized into travel groups and travel groups are scheduled at minimum one time each month. All families will be accompanied by an English speaking guide throughout their entire stay in China. Usually the trip lasts 14 days, however this can vary depending on the province from which your child comes. The typical travel schedule for China has families departing the US on a Thursday and arriving on Friday evening in China. Once you arrive in Beijing you will spend the weekend resting from the long flight, adjusting to the time change and sightseeing such things as The Great Wall and Forbidden City. On Sunday you will travel to the capital city of your child's province by either train or plane depending on distance from Beijing. You will receive your child on Monday. This is known as "Gotcha Day!" The adoption will be finalized the following day at the Ministry of Civil Affairs. You will remain in your child's province the rest of the week while waiting for the child's Chinese passport to be issued. During that time you will have opportunities to sightsee and learn more about the region of China where your child has lived. On Friday, you will receive your child's passport and travel to Guangzhou where the U.S. Embassy is located responsible for issuing immigrant visas for adoptees. On Saturday, your child will have a Medical Appointment with a U.S. Embassy doctor. Most children are given a Consulate Appointment on Monday or Tuesday (depending on their age). After the Consulate Appointment, you must remain in China for two more days to receive the child's immigrant visa. Once the child's Chinese passport with visa to enter the United States is picked up you are free to depart to return to the USA with your child!

POST ADOPTION

Within 30 days of your arrival home, you must have a home visit by your home study provider. China requires 6 post-adoption reports: at 6 and 12 months after the adoption as well as 2, 3, 4, and 5 years post adoption. The first three post adoption reports are completed by a social worker and the final three reports are self-reports. Post adoption reports include your child's developmental progress as well as photos. This is a very serious commitment - Nightlight is committed to showing the CCCWA that children adopted by US citizens are thriving, healthy and well cared for. 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 adoption report in advance.

COSTS

The program fee for a China Special Needs adoption is \$12,840. 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 Rebecca Tolson at rebecca@nightlight.org or call the Kentucky office at 859-263-9964 with any questions.





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.

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

CHINA

PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
Application Phase		\$500	<i>Due with application</i>
Monitoring and Oversight fee charged by accrediting entity. (Per child)		\$500	<i>Due upon signing the Agreement for International Services</i>
Orientation Phase		\$2,700	<i>Due upon receiving a Letter of Acceptance from Nightlight</i>
Dossier Phase		\$3,640	<i>Due with submission of completed Dossier to Nightlight</i>
<i>Nightlight Fee</i>	\$2,400		<i>Due at dossier submission.</i>
<i>CCCWA Submission and Translation Fees</i>	\$1,240		<i>Fee paid to CCCWA for dossier log-in and translation</i>
Referral Phase		\$5,500	
<i>Nightlight Fee</i>	\$2,500		<i>Due at LOA receipt from CCCWA</i>
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$3,000		<i>Orphan care</i>
Total Program Fee		\$12,840	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
U.S.-Based Fees		\$5,400 – 7,490	
<i>Home Study</i>	\$1,500-\$2,500		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Post adoption reports</i>	\$900-\$1,200		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Shipping and/or translating of post adoption reports</i>	\$910-\$1,500		<i>Costs may vary based on number of children adopted, due at referral phase</i>
<i>Home study supporting documents</i>	\$225		<i>Costs for criminal clearances, obtaining physicals, and other misc. expenses.</i>
<i>Parent education and training</i>	\$100-\$300		<i>Estimate 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 Fees</i>	\$865		<i>Includes I-800A application and biometrics for 2 adults</i>
<i>Deposit for Dossier Authentication Expenses and Misc. Translation costs</i>	\$600		<i>The dossier expenses typically total between \$500 and \$800. After your documents are authenticated at the county and state level, Nightlight will authenticate them through the courier at the US State Department and the Chinese Embassy. This deposit will go toward courier expenses and any miscellaneous. Translation cost associated with your adoption.</i>
Other In-Country Adoption Costs		\$11,055 – 18,180	<i>Estimates are for 2 people and 1 trip</i>
<i>Airfare (2 adults)</i>	\$2,400-\$4,000		
<i>Airfare for child (one way)</i>	\$400-\$1,000		<i>Depends on the child's age.</i>
<i>In China Travel & Accommodations</i>	\$6,000-\$8,000		<i>Estimated for 14 days</i>
<i>China Visas (2 adults)</i>	\$460		<i>Estimate does not include courier expenses.</i>
<i>Suggested Orphanage Donation</i>	Up to \$2,700		<i>Voluntary donation paid to SWI after adoption is finalized</i>
<i>Civil Affairs Fees</i>	\$1,200-1,300		<i>Includes adoption registration, passport, announcement fees and misc wiring costs</i>
<i>Medical exam, immunization costs, TB screening, etc.</i>	\$150-\$275		
<i>Child's visa</i>	\$325		<i>Paid to the US consulate in China</i>
<i>Child's visa courier fee</i>	\$120		<i>Courier fee paid to NCA for processing child's visa paperwork in China.</i>
Beijing Two-Day Tour (optional)		\$1,200-1,500	<i>(not included in total)</i>
Total Other Costs (Est.)		\$16,455 – 25,670	
TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES			
GRAND TOTAL		\$29,295 – \$38,510	<i>Range depends on adoption type and your expenses, which may vary from state to state. Beijing Tour not included.</i>

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 during the year from each country. Based on these estimates, we establish program fees, taking into consideration the amount of staff time and expenses which will be involved in maintaining the program. 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

China

SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS	China
Home Study (including estimated out of pocket costs)	\$1,500-2,500
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)	\$8,600
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)	\$980
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.	\$3,000
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.	\$5,030
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. Suggested donation paid to the Ministry of Civil Affairs in the province of China where the child's orphanage is located.	\$0-2,700
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)	\$1,810 – 2,700
Travel/Accommodation –Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$8,800 – 13,000
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.	\$1,920 – 2,045

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Date: _____ **Adopting Parents:** _____