## Nightlight® Christian Adoptions

# International Adoption Program Description

# Haiti

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Haiti is located on the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean Sea. It shares a border with the Dominican Republic. With over 10.6 million people, it is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. With a history of civil unrest, brutal dictators and, natural disasters, it is a country with a weak infrastructure robbed of natural resources. The culture is rich in art, music and food with pockets of luxury tourist accommodations – a stark difference from the country's capital Port-au-Prince.

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

Information on international adoptions from Haiti can be found at:

- http://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/country-information/learn-about-a-country/haiti.html: Information on international adoptions from Haiti on the U.S. Department of State web site
- http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1982.htm: Information on the country of Haiti on the U.S. Department of State web site

**CHILDREN AVAILABLE**

Children and sibling groups of all ages are available for adoption from Haiti. We are currently only taking applications of families that are open to children ages 6+.

**ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT**

- At least one parent has to be over 30 years of age. Neither parent can be over age 50.
- Single women are accepted into the program.
- A couple has to be married for at least 5 years.

**REFERRALS**

Referrals are provided by Haiti. The referral will contain basic information on child's medical and social background and pictures. Referral wait times are based off of the age of child that you are open to and approved for which are below:

- Child 6-7 years: average referral time is 2+ years
- Child 8+ average referral time is less than 2 years
- Sibling groups: average referral time is less than 2 years

**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-797C pre-approval notice**.
5. Once your USCIS approval has been received your dossier is complete, you will be registered to adopt in Haiti.
6. The Haitian Central Authority will add you to a list of waiting families and it can take several years to receive a referral.

7. Complete official referral review with Nightlight's Social Services Department
8. Upon referral acceptance, you will travel to Haiti for a 15-day bonding trip.
9. Upon return to the US, you will file your I-800 application.
10. Once you receive your I-800 provisional approval, your dossier goes to court for the adoption.
11. Once you have received the court decree, the attorney will obtain a new birth certificate and passport for your child.
12. The final step is to obtain the US visa for your child. Once the visa is printed, you go to Haiti for the second required trip of 6 days and then return home with your child.
13. The children reside in orphanages while awaiting adoption.
14. It can take 12-14 months to bring your child home once you are matched.

**TRAVEL**

Only two trips are required for adoption from Haiti. The first trip is 15 days and you will meet the child you were referred. Both parents are required to attend this trip. You will go on your second trip after adoption in Haiti is completed and your child's visa is obtained. The required stay for the second trip is 6 days.

**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 at 6 months, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, years after your homecoming date. These reports include your child's developmental progress and pictures. This is a very serious commitment; Nightlight is committed to showing the Haitian Central Authority of Adoption (IBESR) that children adopted by US citizens are healthy and well cared for. The Hague Convention also requires compliance with post adoption reports. Therefore, Nightlight charges a fee to monitor and process these post placement reports and requires families to pay for the cost of the post placement report in advance.

**COSTS**

The program fee for Haiti is $27,000. Your additional costs will include home study, airfare, hotel, meals and embassy fees as shown on the current Program Fee Schedule.

Please contact Karson Loscar, karson@nightlight.org (317) 875-0058, ext. 187 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.**

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

**Haiti**

| PROGRAM FEE | COSTS | TOTALS | NOTES |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Application Phase** | | $500 | *Due with application* |
| **Monitoring and Oversight fee charged by accrediting entity. Per child** | | $850 | *Due upon signing the Agreement for International Services*<br>*$500 each additional child* |
| **Orientation Phase** | | $2,500 | *Due upon receiving a Letter of Acceptance from Nightlight* |
| **Dossier Phase** | | $7,500 | *Due upon shipment of complete dossier to Nightlight* |
| *Nightlight Program Fee* | $2,500 | | |
| *Foreign Fee #1* | $5,000 | | |
| **Referral Phase** | | $8,000 | *Due upon issuance of IBESR referral payment request letter* |
| *Nightlight Program Fee* | *$3,000* | | |
| *Foreign Fee #2* | *$5,000* | | $8,000 for each additional child due at referral acceptance |
| **Court Phase** | | $8,000 | *Due upon issuance of IBESR adoption authorization* |
| *Nightlight program fee* | *$3,000* | | |
| *Foreign Fee #3* | *$5,000* | | $7,000 for each additional child due at issuance of authorization |
| **Total Program Fee** | | **$27,850** | $15,500 each sibling |

| OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED) | COSTS | TOTALS | NOTES |
|---|---|---|---|
| **U.S.-Based Fees** | | $9,208 –$14,043 | |
| *Home Study* | *$1,500-$2,500* | | *Costs vary by state/agency* |
| *Post Adoption Reports* | *$2,700-$3,600* | | *Costs vary by state/agency* |
| *Shipping and/or translating of post adoption reports* | *$1,215-$1,500* | | *Costs vary based on number of children you are adopting, due at referral phase* |
| *Home study supporting documents* | *$225* | | *Cost for criminal clearances, obtaining physicals, and other misc. expenses* |
| *Parent Education/Training* | *$100-$300* | | *Estimated cost of online education courses* |
| *Home Study Review Fee* | *$300* | | *Review of home study prepared by an agency other than Nightlight* |
| *Home Study/USCIS update shipping and translation fees* | *$203-$283* | | *Paid to Nightlight when applicable; price range is per one update* |
| *Psychological Evaluation/2 parents* | *$0-$500* | | *Haiti dossier requires a Psychological Report* |
| *USCIS Fees* | *$945* | | *Includes I-800A application and biometrics for 2 adults* |
| *Document Authentication and Legalization* | *$750-$1250* | | *Paid to service provider* |
| *Dossier Translation* | *$1,200* | | *Due to Nightlight at dossier phase* |
| *Dossier Shipping* | *$70* | | *Due to Nightlight at dossier shipping* |
| *Medical Review of Referral* | *$0-$200* | | *Some physicians do not charge for this service. Other international clinics will charge a fee for this.* |
| *Certificate of Citizenship (COC)* | *$0-$1170* | | *Applies to families in guardianship countries, families living abroad, families coming home on an IR4 visa. Not applicable in some countries.* |
| **Other In-Country Adoption Costs** | | $4,775-$6,925 | |
| *Airfare (2 adults & 2 trips)* | *$1,600-$2,500* | | *Paid to Airline* |
| *Airfare for child (one way)* | *$750-$1,000* | | *Paid to Airline* |
| *Lodging, driver, interpreter* | *$2,000-$3,000* | | *Paid to service providers* |
| *Child's visa and medical* | *$425* | | *Paid to U.S. Embassy and Clinic* |
| **Total Other Costs (Est.)** | | **$13,983 – $20,968** | |
| **TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES** | | | |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | | **$41,333 – $48,318** | |

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

**Haiti**

| SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAUGE REQUIREMENTS | Haiti |
|---|---|
| Home Study (including estimated out of pocket costs) | $1,928 – 3,308 |
| 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) | $12,350 |
| 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) | $7,000 |
| 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. | $8,000 |
| 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. | $2,020-2,520 |
| 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) | $3,915 – 5,100 |
| Travel/Accommodation Expenses: Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates. | $2,910 -6,500 |
| 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. | $1,370-$3,240 |

**Please initial on both this page and the preceding page that you have received a copy of this List of Fees and Estimated Costs.**

**Date:_____Adopting Parents: _____ _____**