

Nightlight® Christian Adoptions

International Adoption Program Description

CHINA HONG KONG



GENERAL INFORMATION

Nightlight offers international adoption from the Hong Kong, an autonomous territory in south Eastern China. This program was launched in 2011 and has been a successful program for families interested in adopting special needs children. Nightlight works directly with two social welfare institutes approved by the Hong Kong Central Authority to do intercountry adoption. Those institutes are Po Leung Kuk (PLK) and International Social Services (ISS).

The following website is a useful place to start for reading more about adoptions from Hong Kong:

- <https://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/country-information/learn-about-a-country/hong-kong.html> U.S. State Department page about Hong Kong adoption

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Nightlight began a partnership with Po Leung Kuk (a social service organization in Hong Kong) to place orphaned children into loving homes in 2011. Our partnership with International Social Services (ISS) has been in place since 2017. We work directly with these two social welfare institutes who are approved by the Central Authority of Hong Kong to conduct inter-country adoption. Hong Kong/China is a party to The Hague convention as well.

All children adopted from Hong Kong are considered to have special placement needs. PLK and ISS make available a list to Nightlight of waiting children. This program is unique because prospective adoptive families receive a great deal of information about the child they are considering including: medical reports from the time the child entered care; educational reports; social history; and as much information about the birth family as has been recorded. When a family expresses an interest in adopting a specific child, they make application with either PLK or ISS, the social welfare institute currently responsible for matching that child.

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

Children from 1 year to 15 years of age with special placement needs are available for adoption. Special placement needs may include medical health needs, mental health needs, or birth family issues. Some waiting children have moderate to severe special needs such as Thalassemia or Down Syndrome and some children over the age of 8 years are available who have no apparent medical problems. To view waiting children from Hong Kong, please visit our waiting child page on adoptionbridge.org

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

Hong Kong's eligibility requirements include married couples must be at least 25 years of age and may not be more than 45 years older than the child they wish to adopt. Applicants must be married at least 3 years. When it is a second marriage, applicants must be married for at least 5 years. Singles may also adopt from Hong Kong but must have sufficient child care experience and a strong support network. Applicants need to be in good physical health and have a stable income. Hong Kong prefers families with no more than 3 children in the home.

PROCESS

Families submit an application, home study, and dossier to Hong Kong. Once the documents are received and reviewed, the Hong Kong Central Authority through the approved social welfare institute sends the family a referral of a child meeting the family's specifications. The screening and referral process takes about 8 to 12 weeks, as long as a child is available that meets the family's criteria. If a family has pre-identified a waiting child, they will receive that child's full referral upon submitting their application. The Hong Kong Central Authority will review the family's documents and provide an official match. This can take 6-10 months. The family will then complete official referral review with Nightlight's Social Services Department. Once the match is accepted by the family, the legal procedures in Hong Kong take approximately 8 weeks and the family is granted guardianship by the court in Hong Kong. Your family will then process the I-800 with immigration here in the US and upon approval of your I-800, either PLK or ISS will apply for the visa and passport for the child. The visa is granted prior to the family traveling to Hong Kong so time spent in Hong Kong can be spent simply bonding with your child. The entire adoption process from Hong Kong generally takes about 18 months.

TRAVEL

Both prospective adoptive parents are required to travel to Hong Kong to accept placement of the child. Time in country is approximately 7 days though this time may vary slightly. Families receive guardianship orders from the Hong Kong court and then finalize their adoption in the US upon return. Travel to Hong Kong is comfortable for most families as Hong Kong has many of the modern conveniences we have here in the US and because the city is trilingual speaking English, Cantonese, and Mandarin.

NIGHTLIGHT'S COMMITMENT

Nightlight is committed to preparing families for the adoption of a child with special needs. We provide pre- and post-adoption education and information regarding medical resources.

POST ADOPTION

Hong Kong requires the first post placement report at 1 month after arrival home and then 4 quarterly reports in the first 12 months after the child returns to the US. This is a total of 5 reports to be completed by your home study social worker and photos of your family and your adopted child are included.

COSTS

The program fee for a Hong Kong adoption is around \$10,000. 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.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Tolson at Rebecca@nightlight.org or calling our Kentucky office at (859)263-9964





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
Hong Kong/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		\$2,000	<i>Due upon receiving a Letter of Acceptance from Nightlight</i>
Dossier Phase		\$3,000	
<i>Nightlight Program Fee</i>	\$3,000		
Referral Phase		\$2,000	
<i>Nightlight Program Fee</i>	\$2,000		
Travel Phase		\$2,000	
<i>Nightlight program fee</i>	\$2,000		
Total Program Fee		\$10,000	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
U.S.-Based Fees		\$7,510 – \$10,310	
<i>Home Study</i>	\$1,500-\$2,500		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</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>	\$420		<i>Costs vary based on how many children you are adopting, due at referral phase.</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>USCIS Fees</i>	\$865		<i>Includes I-800A application</i>
<i>Deposit for dossier expenses and misc. translation costs.</i>	\$300		<i>After your documents are authenticated at the county and state level, Nightlight will send it to Hong Kong. This deposit will cover courier expenses.</i>
<i>Adoption Finalization</i>	\$2,000-\$3,000		<i>Cost varies by state/attorney</i>
Other In-Country Adoption Costs		\$4,325 – \$6,425	<i>Estimates are for 2 people and 1 trip</i>
<i>Social Welfare Fee</i>	\$200-\$600		<i>Fee varies depending on which social welfare institute your child is in.</i>
<i>Airfare (2 adults)</i>	\$2,000-\$3,000		
<i>Airfare for child (one way)</i>	\$400-\$600		<i>Depends on the child's age.</i>
<i>In Country Travel and Accommodations</i>	\$1,000-\$1,500		<i>Estimated for 7 days in country</i>
<i>Medical exam, immunization costs, TB screening, passport, etc.</i>	\$400		
<i>Child's visa</i>	\$325		
Total Other Costs (Est.)		\$11,835 – \$16,735	
TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES			
GRAND TOTAL		\$21,835 – \$26,735	

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

Hong Kong/China

SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS	Hong Kong/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)	\$10,000
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)	\$600
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.	\$300
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)	\$2,220 – 2,820
Travel/Accommodation Expenses: Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$3,400 – 5,100
Third Party Expenses: includes USCIS fees, courier services, and in country guide, and child medical or visa costs if paid directly by the family rather than through Nightlight.	\$1,590

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Date: _____ Adopting Parents: _____