

Nightlight® Christian Adoptions International Adoption Program Description

Portugal



GENERAL INFORMATION

Portugal is a country whose mainland is located on the Iberian Peninsula of Southwestern Europe, and whose territory also includes the Atlantic archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira. It features the westernmost point in mainland Europe, and its Iberian portion is bordered to the west and south by the Atlantic Ocean and to the north and east by Spain, the sole country to have a land border with Portugal.

Portugal is the oldest continuously existing nation state on the Iberian Peninsula and one of the oldest in Europe. Lisbon is Portugal's capital and economic and cultural center. Due to its rich history, scenic landscapes, and numerous museums and restaurants, Portugal is a popular destination for many tourists.

Portugal 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 Portugal and the United States must meet the requirements of the Convention and U.S. law implementing the Convention. Portugal adoptions are conducted through a collaborative effort of a Hague accredited adoption agency in the US and by the Portugal Central Adoption Authority (Central Authority for International Adoption, Social Security Institute).

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

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/Intercountry-Adoption-Country-Information/Portugal.html>

Information on the country of Portugal on the U.S. Department of State web site:

<https://www.state.gov/countries-areas/portugal/>

Portugal tourism: <https://www.portugal.com/>

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

- Children over age 7, Sibling groups of older children, and children with special needs are available for adoption.
- Younger children are available for adoption by Portuguese citizens, including those residing in the U.S.

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

- The Portuguese adoption law requires 4 years of living together either in civil union or marriage, or both, however NCA requires at least two years of marriage.
- The prospective adoptive parents both have to be over 25 years of age.
- Single women and men are accepted into the program. In this case the PAP must be over 30 years of age.

- The maximum age to adopt a child in Portugal is 60 years of age. The age difference between the PAP and a child should not be more than 50 years, although NCA in general considers it best that there be no more than 45 years between the PAPs and the child. Exceptions may be considered in case of adopting siblings, if the requirements are met for some of the children but not for all, and if this would be in the best interest of the child.
- Single women and men are allowed to adopt.
- If you have any criminal background or any mental health history, please let us know so that we can determine if the authorities in Portugal will accept your application.

PROCESS

1. Submit your application to Nightlight Christian Adoptions.
2. Complete the home study and required Hague education.
3. File I-800A with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
4. Prepare dossier which includes the I-800A Approval letter.
5. Accept *a referral of a waiting child* once the home study is completed, while working on the dossier documents and awaiting Immigration approval (I-800A Adoption Approval).
6. Complete commitment documents to “hold” a child for a pre-approval before Immigration Approval and dossier are complete.
7. If *waiting for a referral of a child* instead of selecting a waiting child, complete dossier and include I-800A Adoption Approval letter.
8. Dossier sent to Portugal, where it is translated and legalized and then submitted to the Portugal Central Adoption Authority.
9. Referral received and approved by Nightlight.
10. Complete official referral review with Nightlight’s Social Services Department and accept the referral.
11. File form I-800 that includes the child’s information with USCIS (in order to receive approval to adopt a specific child).
12. Provisional approval issued by USCIS, sent to the family and the client’s file sent to the U.S. Embassy in Portugal.
13. File the DS 260 online. After its approval U.S. Embassy issues the Article 5 letter, which is delivered to the Portugal’s Central Authority.
14. Article 17 is issued by the Portugal’s Central Authority.
15. Travel to Portugal for socialization period with child (4-6 weeks). (Note: Family should receive provisional approval prior to traveling to Portugal).
16. First week in Portugal, family visits the child every day, after the first week and when appropriate, child is transferred into their care and child remains with family throughout the balance of the stay.
17. Guardianship petition is filed, requesting guardianship be given to the adoptive parents.
18. Adoptive parents appear in Court; Judge issues Guardianship decision.
19. Request an appointment date with the US embassy for visa interview.
20. Take the child to get the official medical exam, and obtain the child’s U.S. visa at the Consular section of the U.S. Embassy.
21. Travel back to the U.S.
22. Contact an attorney in your State to process a full and final adoption.
23. Complete post placement reports 1 month after arrival, then every 3 months until the adoption is finalized.
24. After the adoption is finalized in the court hearing, a court adoption decree is issued.
25. All legal documents will be translated and sent to the Portugal Central Adoption Authority.

TRAVEL & ADOPTION

You receive a referral of a child from Nightlight Christian Adoptions through the Portugal Central Adoption Authority. The referral will include a brief social history of the child, and the current health and development of the child. We highly recommend that you have this information reviewed by a doctor who specializes in international adoption before you make a decision to accept a referral of a child. Once you decide to accept a referral, you will be considered “matched” with the child. You coordinate travel dates with Nightlight and will travel to Portugal for socialization period with the child (4-6 weeks). Both parents are required to travel to Portugal. During your trip, you will visit the child every day to get to know your child and begin bonding with him or her. After the first week and when appropriate, the child is transferred into your care and remains with you throughout the balance of the stay. During these daily bonding visits and stay with the family, a social worker will observe your interactions with the child and prepare a recommendation for the court. After the court hearing you will receive the Guardianship Court Decision. Once you receive it, our Portuguese representative will schedule appointment for your child’s medical exam and visa. After you take your child to get evaluated at the medical clinic approved by the Embassy, and visit the US Embassy in Lisbon to obtain your child’s visa, you can travel home with the child. As soon as you arrive home, you will need to contact an attorney in your State to process a full and final adoption and complete post placement reports until the final adoption is completed.

POST PLACEMENT

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-placement reports and submit them to Nightlight at one month, 3 months, 6 months, 9 months and 12 months after you arrive home. If you have not finalized your adoption in the 12 months after arriving home, you must continue a post placement visit with your social worker to be submitted to Portugal every 3 months until finalization. These reports include your child's developmental progress and pictures. This is a very serious commitment; Nightlight is committed to showing the Portugal Central Adoption Authority that children adopted by US citizens are healthy and well cared for. Compliance with post adoption reports is also required by The Hague Convention. Every state has different requirements for finalization. Some states may require ICPC (Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children) before finalization. Please check with your local social worker to see if this is a requirement in your state.

POST ADOPTION

Once post placement reports are completed and a full and final adoption is in place in your state of residence, Portugal does not require additional post adoption reporting.

COSTS

The program fee for Portugal is \$17,900. 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 Viktoriia Serediuk-Buz, viktorii@nightlight.org , (317) 875-0058 ext. 181, 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

Portugal

PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
Application Phase		\$500	<i>Due with application</i>
Monitoring and Oversight fee charged by accrediting entity. Per child		\$850	<i>Due upon signing the Agreement for International Services \$500 for each additional child</i>
Orientation Phase		\$2,500	<i>Due upon receiving a Letter of Acceptance from Nightlight</i>
Dossier Phase		\$3,100	<i>Due upon dossier submission</i>
Nightlight Program Fee	\$2,000		
Foreign Fee #1	\$1,100		
Referral Phase		\$5,700	<i>Due upon acceptance of referral</i>
Nightlight Program Fee	\$3,000		
Foreign Fee #2	\$2,700		<i>Additional children \$4000</i>
Court Phase		\$5,600	<i>Due upon receipt of Guardianship Order</i>
Foreign Fee #3	\$5,600		
Total Program Fee		\$18,250	

OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
U.S.-Based Fees		\$11,860-\$20,990	
Home Study	\$1,500 - \$2,500		<i>Costs vary by state/agency.</i>
Post Adoption Reports	\$1,200 - \$1,600		<i>Costs vary by state/agency.</i>
Shipping and/or translating of post adoption reports	\$800 - \$2,250		<i>Cost varies depending on the number of children you are adopting. Due at referral phase.</i>
Home study supporting documents	\$225		<i>Cost for criminal clearances, obtaining physicals, and other misc. expenses.</i>
Parent Education/Training	\$100 - \$300		<i>Estimated cost of online education courses.</i>
Home Study Review Fee	\$0-\$300		<i>Review of home study prepared by an agency other than Nightlight.</i>
Home Study/USCIS update, shipping & translation fees	\$875 - \$2,140		<i>Paid to Nightlight when applicable.</i>
USCIS Filing Fees	\$945		<i>Includes I-800a application filing fee and biometrics for 2 adults.</i>
Dossier Apostille/Authentication/Courier fees	\$475 - \$1,525		<i>Dossier will be apostilled through the Secretary of State. Costs vary by state.</i>
Shipping/Translation of Dossier	\$785-\$1,000		<i>Paid to Nightlight at dossier phase.</i>
Medical Review of Referral	\$0 - \$500		<i>Some physicians do not charge for this service. Other international clinics will charge a fee for this.</i>
Psychological Evaluation/ 2 parents	\$0-\$500		<i>Some countries will require this and some will not. In addition your home study agency or Nightlight may require in certain circumstances</i>
Certification of Dossier	\$560-\$840		<i>Paid to Nightlight at dossier phase for certification of dossier in Portugal</i>
Attorney Domestic Adoption Fee	\$1,500-\$3,000		<i>Dependent on your state of residence. Due after child comes home.</i>
Translation of Referral Documents	\$1,050-\$1,410		<i>Paid to Nightlight at referral time.</i>
Translation of Legal Guardianship Documents	\$675-\$785		<i>Paid to Nightlight as your guardianship is processed.</i>
Certificate of Citizenship	\$1,170		<i>Applies to families in guardianship countries, families living abroad, families coming home on an IR4 visa. .</i>
Other In-Country Adoption Costs		\$6,950 - \$12,150	
Airfare (2 adults, round trip)	\$1,200 - \$2,500		<i>Airfare varies depending on time of year travel occurs & city of departure.</i>
Airfare for child (one way)	\$1,100 - \$2,000		<i>Airfare varies depending on time of year travel occurs and child's age.</i>
In-Country Travel, Accommodations, Meals	\$4,000 - \$7,000		<i>Estimated for 2 adults. 1 trip. Approximately 45 days, traveling to Lisbon, Portugal.</i>

<i>Child's Visa & Medical</i>	<i>\$650</i>	<i>Due while in country.</i>
Total Other Costs (Est.)	\$18,810 - \$33,140	
TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES		
GRAND TOTAL	\$37,060-\$51,390	

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

Portugal

SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAGUE REQUIREMENTS	Portugal
Home Study (including estimated out of pocket costs)	\$1,725 - \$2,725
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)	\$8,850
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)	\$9,400
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.	\$3,945-\$6,175
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)	\$2,000 - \$3,850
Travel/Accommodation – Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$6,300 - \$11,500
Third Party Expenses: includes USCIS fees, courier services, and in country guide, child medical or visa costs if paid directly by the family rather than through Nightlight.	\$4,840-\$8,890

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: _____