Nightlight® Christian Adoptions
International Adoption Program Description
Ghana

GENERAL INFORMATION

Ghana, West Africa, is a small country on the Gulf of Guinea. It is bordered by Cote d'Ivoire and Togo. Ghana became the first sub-Saharan country in colonial Africa to gain its independence in 1957. The Official language is English, but there are many other languages including Akan, Ewe, Fante and Ga. Ghana is one of West Africa's most popular tourist destinations, boasting historical sights, an abundance of culture, festivals, wildlife, and beaches. Ghana 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 Ghana and the United States must meet the requirements of the Convention and U.S. law implementing the Convention.

Ghanaian adoptions are conducted through a collaborative effort of a Hague accredited adoption agency in the US and by the Ghanaian Central Adoption Authority.

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

- https://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/country-information/learn-about-a-country/ghana.html U.S. State Department page about Ghanaian adoption
    - http://www.ghanaembassy.org/index.php?page=tourism Ghanaian Tourism

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

- Both boys and girls are available for adoption.
- Children as young as 2 years and as old as fifteen are available for adoption. (Wait time for a referral of a child under 4 years old can be up to 3 years.)
- Sibling groups are available.
- Children with Special Needs are available for adoption.

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

Applicants must be at least 21 years older than the child they are adopting. Married couples may adopt from Ghana. Ghana will not accept applicants with a criminal history, or history of drug/alcohol abuse. Ghana is reluctant to accept large families. Families with Ghanaian heritage who meet Ghana's adoption requirements may experience shorter wait times for referrals.

PROCESS

1. Make application to Nightlight Christian Adoptions.
2. Begin your **adoption home study** and submit **form I-800A** to CIS.
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 Ghana.
6. The Ghanaian Central Authority will add you to a list of waiting families to receive a referral.
7. Upon referral acceptance, Nightlight will begin processing the family's I-800.
8. You will then travel to Ghana for your first court date and to meet and bond with your child (a minimum of one month for bonding).

9. Once you have received the court decree, the attorney will obtain a new birth certificate and passport for your child.
10. The final step is to obtain the US visa for your child and returning home. Most families will remain in Ghana for a minimum of 60 days for the adoption process to be completed. However, some families may choose to return to the US after court date, and then take a 2nd pick up trip once the child's visa has been issued.
11. The children reside in orphanages while awaiting adoption.
12. Ghana adoptions can take on average from 12 to 36 months to complete.

TRAVEL & ADOPTION

You receive a referral of a child from Nightlight Christian Adoptions through the Ghanaian 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. Once you decide to accept a referral, you will be considered "matched" with the child. You will then wait for an invitation to travel to Ghana to bond with your child, and then attend court. Once you travel to Ghana, you will remain in Ghana for a minimum of 30 days to bond with your child. During the month, you will be observed by the Department of Social Welfare. After the bonding period, you will be given a court date. Once you receive the court decree, the attorney will obtain a new birth certificate and passport and begin the visa process. Both parents do not have to remain in Ghana the entire time. Both parents must attend the initial bonding period and court hearing.

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 one, 6 months and 12 months after the child is home. These reports include your child's developmental progress and pictures. This is a very serious commitment; Nightlight is committed to showing the Ghanaian Adoption Authority and birth families that children adopted by US citizens are 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 placement report in advance.

COSTS

The program fee for a Ghana adoption is $20,000. Additional estimated expenses of $10,635 – $14,600 will bring the total cost to approximately $30,635 – $34,600. In addition, your out-of-pocket expenses may further be reduced if you receive scholarships or other employer-provided adoption benefits. For additional fee information, please see Exhibit A.

Please contact Carrie Knight, at Carrie@nightlight.org , (864-901-3742) or Laura Beauvais at Laura@nightlight.org with any questions.

Getting Started CHECKLIST

1. **Fill out Application Documents**
   - Fill out the Online Application here: https://nightlight.mysamdb.com/SAM/Fm/ApplicationFormPart1_Nightlight_Edt.aspx
   - Read and Sign the Agreement for International Adoption Services. https://nightlight.mysamdb.com/SAM/Fm/AgreementforInternationalAdoptionServices_Edt.aspx
   - Read and Sign the Statement of Risks Waiver
   - Read and Sign the "Policy & Procedure" Form
   - 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

Ghana

PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
Application Phase		$500	*Due with application*
Monitoring and Oversight fee charged by accrediting entity. Per child		$500	*Due upon signing the Agreement for International Services*
Orientation fee		$2,000	*Due upon receiving a Letter of Acceptance from Nightlight*
Dossier Phase		$4,000	*Due when dossier is ready for Ghana*
Foreign Fee #1	$2,000		
Nightlight Fee	$2,000		
Referral Phase		$5,000	*Paid when the DSW in Ghana refers child to family*
Foreign Fee #2	*$5,000*		
Travel Phase		$6,000	*Due upon obtaining court decree*
Foreign fee #3	*$5,000*		
Nightlight fee	*$1,000*		
Travel Phase #2		$2,000	*Sue upon I-600 approval*
Foreign Fee #4	$2,000		
Total Program Fee		**20,000**	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	**COSTS**	**TOTALS**	**NOTES**
U.S.-Based Fees		$3,670 –$5,070	
Home Study	*$1,500-$2,500*		*Costs vary by state/agency*
Post Adoption Reports	*$600-$800*		*Costs vary by state/agency*
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*
USCIS Fees	*$945*		*Includes I-800A application*
Other In-Country Adoption Costs		$6,965 – $9,530	*Estimates are for 2 people and 1 trip*
Airfare (2 adults)	*$2,000-$4,000*		
Airfare for child (one way)	*$750-$1,000*		
Visas (for 2 Adults)	*$200*		
In Country Transportation	*$1,000*		*Estimated for 10 days. (one week trip + 3 day trip)*
Humanitarian Aid/Orphanage Donation	*$2,000*		*Paid with travel phase #2 to Nightlight*
Medical exam, immunization costs, TB screening, birth certificate, passport, etc.	*$85-$200*		*Varies each time*
Hotel Accommodations	*$500*		*Estimated for 10 days. (one week trip + 3 day trip)*
Food Expenses (1-2 adults)	*$200-400*		*Estimated for 10 days. (one week trip + 3 day trip)*
Child's visa	*$230*		
Total Other Costs (Est.)		**$10,635 – $14,600**	
TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES			
GRAND TOTAL		**$30,635 – $34,600**	

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

Ghana

SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAUGE REQUIREMENTS	Ghana
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)	$6,000
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)	$14,000
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.	$100-300
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.	$2,000
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)	$600 – 800

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Date:_____ Adopting Parents: _____ _____