Nightlight® Christian Adoptions
International Adoption Program Description
Kyrgyzstan

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kyrgyzstan was part of the former Soviet Union. It is located south of Kazakhstan and is now an independent republic. The capital city is Bishkek. Kyrgyzstan 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 Kyrgyzstan and the United States must meet the requirements of the Convention and U.S. law implementing the Convention.

Kyrgyzstan adoptions are conducted through a collaborative effort of a Hague accredited adoption agency in the US and by the Kyrgyzstan Central Adoption Authority (The Ministry of Labor and Social Development).

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

- http://adoption.state.gov/country_information/country_specific_info.php?country-select=kyrgyzstan: Information on international adoptions from Kyrgyzstan at the U.S. Department of State web site
- http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5755.htm: Information on Kyrgyzstan on the U.S. Department of State web site

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 5 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 18 years older than the child they are adopting. Both married couples and single women may adopt from Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyzstan will not accept applicants with a criminal history, history of drug/alcohol abuse, or a history of pornography. Both parents must be under 60 years of age at the time of referral and married for at least 2 years.

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 I800A petition, you will receive your **I-797C pre-approval notice**.
5. Once your USCIS approval has been received - your dossier is complete and you will be registered to adopt in Kyrgyzstan.
6. The Kyrgyzstan Central Authority will add you to a list of waiting families and it can take 18 to 36 months to receive a referral.
7. Upon referral acceptance, Nightlight will begin processing the family's I-800.
8. You will then travel to Kyrgyzstan for your first trip to meet and bond with your child (a minimum of 10 days for bonding).
9. 6-8 weeks later you will travel to Kyrgyzstan for your court hearing.
10. Approximately 35 days after your court hearing, you will travel back to Kyrgyzstan for the final step of the process to obtain the US visa for your child and returning home.
11. The children reside in orphanages while awaiting adoption.
12. Kyrgyzstan adoptions can take on average from 24 to 48 months to complete.

TRAVEL & ADOPTION

You receive a referral of a child from Kyrgyzstan Central Authority through Nightlight Christian Adoptions. The referral will include a brief social and medical information of the child as well as some pictures. 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 Kyrgyzstan for your bonding trip. Most families invited to travel receive very short notice, at times only a couple of weeks notice is given. The bonding trip has to be a minimum of 10 days in country. During these 10 days you will visit the orphanage daily. After 10 days, you will return home and our in-country coordinator will start gathering needed documentation for court. Your court hearing will be schedule 6-8 weeks after your bonding trip. Your court trip will be 3-5 days in country. 30 days after the court hearing, your adoption decree will become final and you can come back to Kyrgyzstan for your third and final trip. This trip will also be 3-5 days and you will complete the Immigrant Visa process for your child and return home. Both parents have to travel for bonding and court trips, but it is allowed for one parent to travel on trip 3.

POST ADOPTION

You are required to register your child with the Embassy of Kyrgyzstan in Washington DC within 3 days of your arrival home. Nightlight will provide detailed instructions on how to complete this process.

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 1 month, 6 months, 12 months, 24 months, and 36 months after the adoption is finalized. These reports include your child's developmental progress and pictures. This is a very serious commitment; Nightlight is committed to showing the Kyrgyzstan Adoption authorities 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 adoption reports and also requires families to pay for the cost of the post adoption reports in advance.

COSTS

The program fee for a Kyrgyzstan adoption is $25,500. Additional estimated expenses of $18,400 to $23,400 will bring the total cost to approximately $43,900-$48,900. Your out-of-pocket expenses may be reduced if you receive scholarships or other employer-provided adoption benefits. For additional fee information, please see Exhibit A.

Please contact Liana Stoddart, at Liana@nightlight.org or 970-663-6799 with any questions.

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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 970-663-6799 or send us an e-mail at info@nightlight.org.

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

KYRGYZSTAN

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		$1,500	Due prior to Orientation call
Dossier Registration Phase		$7,000	Due with our receipt of your dossier
Referral Phase		$8,000	Due with acceptance of referral
Court Phase		$8,000	Due upon return from Trip 1
Total Program Fee:		**$25,500**	Paid to Nightlight Christian Adoptions
Sibling fees			**$15,500 for each sibling**

OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
U.S.-Based Fees		**$7,400 - $9,400**	
Home Study	*$1,500 - $3,000*		*Paid to home study provider Costs vary by state & agency*
Dossier Authentication	*$500*		*Price per apostille varies by state*
Dossier Translation	*$1,500*		*Paid to the service provider through Nightlight*
Post Adoption Reports	*$1,500 - $2,000*		*Paid to home study provider/cost varies by agency.*
Post Adoption Reports Translation/Shipping	*$1,000*		*Due to Nightlight at Court Phase*
USCIS Filing and Biometrics Fees (2 adults)	*$945*		*Paid to USCIS; $85 Biometrics fee is per each adult household member*
Child's Immigrant Visa	*$325*		*Paid to US Embassy in Almaty*
Child's Medical	*$130*		*Paid to the clinic in Almaty*
In-Country Costs (estimated)		**$11,000 - $14,000**	Estimates are for 2 people and 3 trips
Airfare	*$6,000-$9,000*		*Prices vary by location, fuel prices and time of year*
Lodging, Driver, Interpreter	*$3,000*		*Paid to the service provider*
Food	*$1,000*		*Paid to the service provider*
Miscellaneous	*$1,000*		*Paid to the service provider*
Total Other Costs (Est.)		**$18,400 - $23,400**	

TOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES		
GRAND TOTAL	**$43,900 - $48,900**	*Range depends on your factors such as your state, airfare costs, etc.*

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

Kyrgyzstan

SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAUGE REQUIREMENTS	Kyrgyzstan
Home Study (including estimated out of pocket costs)	$1,600 – 3,000
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)	$13,000
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)	$12,500
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.	$2,000-3,000
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. **Fee is provided to the orphanage through Nightlight Christian Adoptions**	$500
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)	$1,200 -1,600

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: _____ _____