

Nightlight® Christian Adoptions Renewed Hope Program Description



GENERAL INFORMATION

Nightlight Christian Adoptions recognizes it is the desire of every family to have a successful adoption, even when a child may face difficult issues. However, unexpected problems may challenge an adoptive family beyond what they can handle. Nightlight developed the Renewed Hope program to assist families who feel dissolving their adoption is the best option for their children and their family. The Renewed Hope program seeks to match these children with new adoptive families. By becoming a Nightlight family for one of these children, you can grow your family through a domestic adoption.

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

- Children originally adopted internationally or through the foster care system
- Occasionally sibling groups are available for adoption
- Children with special needs are available for adoption
- Children's ages typically range from 6-14
- Occasionally younger children are available, ages 3-6

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

Applicants must be at least 25 years old, and the youngest parent should not be more than 45 years older than the child they are adopting. Singles are eligible to adopt from the Renewed Hope program; however, each child's specific needs are taken into consideration when matching them with a new adoptive family. Couples must be married for a minimum of two years. Adoptive families must complete a home study and Nightlight's required education.

GENERAL PROCESS

This is a general overview of the process. Each state has its own adoption laws, and the timing and amount of services required will vary depending on the applicable state laws.

1. Once a child is identified, complete the online application
2. Participate in a program orientation
3. Submit/Begin your adoption home study
4. Complete the required Renewed Hope education
5. Arrange for legal representation
6. Complete transition plan
7. Travel to state where child is living for required 7-day visit with child
8. Receive placement of the child
9. Return home once ICPC approval is received
10. Complete post-placement supervision
11. Finalize your adoption

MATCHING

When matching a child with a new adoptive family, the child's specific needs are taken into consideration. Some children may do best in a home with other children; some may not. Some may require a two-parent home, while others may thrive in a single-parent home. The Renewed Hope program only accepts applications for waiting children. Families open to older children, children of any race, and children with special needs (physical, emotional, or behavioral) are likely to have success adopting through the Renewed Hope program.

TRAVEL

You will likely be matched with a child that lives in another state. If this is the case, you will be required to visit the child in their home state prior to receiving placement. Depending on the child's specific needs, it may be necessary to make additional trips to visit with the child as part of the transition plan. You will again travel to your child's state once it is time to begin the transition and receive placement of your child. You must remain in your child's birth state until the interstate compact coordinators in both your state of residence and your child's state of residence have approved the placement (**usually up to 14 business days, but can be as long as 28 business days**). After ICPC approval, you will then be allowed to take your child home with you and, in most cases, finalize your adoption in your home state.

PLACING PARENTS RIGHT TO REVOKE

This is not something that typically occurs in this type of adoption; however, the time frame depends upon the state laws in your child's home state. Once the placing family has signed the voluntary petition to terminate parental rights, they can decide to "change their mind" depending on the applicable state laws in their state of residence. During this time period, if the placing parents decide to withdraw the petition to terminate their rights, our agency would discuss with the adoptive parents before determining what is in the best interest of the child and whether it would be appropriate for the adoptive parents to pursue an involuntary termination of parental rights. In the event that the decision is made to pursue an involuntary termination of parental rights, the additional legal costs are the responsibility of the adoptive family. In a situation where the placing parent decides to parent, and the adoptive family is pursuing an involuntary termination of parental rights, it is the decision of the judge to determine what is in the best interest of the child.

OPEN ADOPTIONS

One purpose of an open adoption is to provide answers for your child, minimizing their loss of relationships by maintaining and celebrating the child's connections with *all* the important people in his or her life. Open adoption also empowers you in raising your child by providing knowledge about your child's family history. During the home study, you will learn of the many positive aspects of open adoption, and your adoption worker will discuss with you the contact arrangement you are most comfortable with.

COST

The program fee for a Renewed Hope adoption is \$5,600. Additional estimated expenses of \$1,650 to \$17,015 will bring the total cost to approximately \$7,250-\$22,615. In addition, your out-of-pocket expenses may further be reduced if you receive grants or other employer-provided adoption benefits. For additional fee information, please see Attachment A.

ATTACHMENT A
 NIGHTLIGHT® CHRISTIAN ADOPTIONS
 RENEWED HOPE ADOPTIONS – FEES AND ESTIMATED COSTS

PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
Application Fee		\$600	<i>Due with application acceptance</i>
Program Fee 1		\$1,000	<i>Due at the time of orientation</i>
Program Fee 2		\$2,000	<i>Due at the time of match</i>
Program Fee 3		\$2,000	<i>Due at the time of placment</i>
Total Program Fee		\$5,600	

OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
Expenses		\$1,650 –\$11,715	
<i>Home Study</i>	<i>\$1,250-\$3,000</i>		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Post Adoption Reports</i>	<i>\$300-\$2,000</i>		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Other Parent Education/Training</i>	<i>\$100-\$415</i>		<i>Estimated cost of online education courses</i>
<i>Finalization Attorney fees</i>	<i>\$0-\$6,000</i>		<i>Costs vary by state, court cost, and guardian ad litem fees</i>
<i>Court Report</i>	<i>\$0-\$300</i>		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
Potential Additional Expenses		\$0-\$5,300	
<i>Home Study Review Fee</i>	<i>\$300</i>		<i>Applies to families living outside NCA licensed area using other home study provider</i>
<i>ICPC Processing Fee</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>		<i>Applies only to interstate adoptions when the attorney is not filing ICPC</i>
<i>Travel</i>	<i>\$2,000-\$3,500</i>		<i>Families must visit the child prior to placement and then travel to receive child. Fees based on two adults and reasonable accommodations.</i>
TOTAL ESTIMATED OTHER COSTS		\$1,650- \$17,015	
GRAND TOTAL		\$7,250– \$22,615	<i>Range depends on factors such as your home study fees, travel expenses, and legal fees-all of which can be higher than estimated.</i>

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, 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.