



Liberia

Through an exclusive partnership with African Christians Fellowship International (ACFI) in Monrovia, Liberia Christian Adoption Services is pleased to announce its newest international adoption program. Liberia is a beautiful country in western Africa that borders the Atlantic Ocean. Years of civil unrest have left the country with many orphaned children or children whose parents lack the financial means to provide for them. Liberia was colonized by the United States in 1816 and English is the official language. As one of its many ministries, ACFI has provided adoption services since 1996 and operates two orphanages in the general area of Monrovia, the capital city.

THE CHILDREN

All children available for placement are in the care of ACFI in one of two orphanages. Daniel Hoover Children's Village is the largest orphanage in Liberia and has 400+ plus children in care. ACFI also operates a smaller orphanage for hearing impaired children. The majority of children in care in these orphanages are between 4 and 16 years of age and have been admitted into care by their birth parents or relatives. Some children have been in care for several years. Most children are available for adoption and will likely not have a forever family other than through adoption. Some sibling groups are available. Although each orphanage has school facilities onsite as well as basic medical services, the conditions are extremely poor. The children have no access to electricity or running water and live in a very isolated environment. They have a very limited diet. Children are tested for HIV.

CRITERIA FOR ADOPTION

Applicants are to be at least 25 years of age while the maximum age is very flexible. Married couples and singles (considered on a case-by-case basis) are eligible to adopt. There is no length of marriage requirement. The maximum number of children in the home is determined on a case by case basis.

PROCESS

At this time the adoption process is relatively simple, with a dossier containing few documents, none of which have to be authenticated or apostilled. Currently, families have the option of one or both parent(s) traveling to Liberia for approximately one week or having their child/ren escorted to the U.S. Several changes to the adoption laws are being considered at this time, which could affect continued opportunity for escorting, in-country fees, etc. It is not known at this time whether any or all of the proposed changes will be affected. It is anticipated that the wait from dossier preparation until placement will be 6-12 months. Intake information from ACFI and photos will be available at time of referral. Families receive information obtained about the child's family through several birth parent or placing relative interviews that are required as part of the adoption process as well as the results of a medical exam obtained through the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia.

TRAVEL

In non-escort situations, the adoptive parent(s) would travel to Monrovia for the Embassy interview and to process the I-600 and child's U. S. visa application. The family would have the option of lodging in one of few hotels in Monrovia or using the ACFI guesthouse. Families must be cognizant of safety concerns associated with a country torn by war and without considerable infrastructure. The family would be able to visit the child/ren's orphanage and interact with caregivers as well as ACFI adoption staff.



ESTIMATED FEES AND EXPENSES

CAS Fees

| | | |
|---|----------------|----------------------|
| Application Fee (due with application) | \$ 200 | CAS fee is \$1,500 |
| CAS Admittance Fee (due upon approval of home study) | 1,900 | per additional child |
| CAS Acceptance Fee (due upon acceptance of referral)) | <u>2,000</u> | |
| Total | \$4,100 | |

International Fees

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|--|--------------------------|--|
| Liberia Coordination Fee* @ (due upon submission of dossier) | \$2,000 | |
| Child Care* (due upon acceptance of referral) | 1,000 | |
| Humanitarian Aid [∞] (due upon acceptance of referral) | 2,000 | |
| Child's U.S. Visa* (due upon acceptance of referral) | 420 | |
| Escort Fee (if applicable, due upon acceptance of referral) (* per child) | <u>1,000</u> | |
| Total | \$5,420 – \$6,420 | |

(@ Court documents, passport, embassy medical, case history, notary, birth certificate, death certificate(s), lawyers fees, transportation, coordinator stipend)
[∞] \$1,000 for 2nd child, no additional aid for 3rd child and each child thereafter)

Travel

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Airfare*** (if traveling) | \$2,500 | |
| Escort Airfare (if applicable) | 2,500 | |
| Child Airfare* | <u>750-1,800</u> | |
| Total | \$3,250 – \$6,800 | |

(* per child) (** per adult)

Additional Expenses

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| USCIS 1-600A Fee | \$750 | |
| Fingerprints (second parent) | 80 | |
| Liberian Visa* | 150 | Total Estimated Fees and Expenses |
| Transportation (ACFI)** | 50 | \$14,600-\$19,130¹ |
| Lodging – Hotel** | 125-150 | |
| Lodging - Guest House** | 25-individual/40-family | <i>All fees are non-refundable.</i> |
| Meals - Guest House** | 25-individual/40-family | |
| Generator fuel -Guest House** | 21 | |
| Laundry - Guest House** | <u>5</u> | |
| Total | \$830-\$2,810 | |

(* per adult) (** per day)

¹ Please note an additional home study fee of \$1,200 to \$2,000 will apply as well as an additional fee of \$1,200 to \$2,000 for postplacement and readoption services. The home study and postplacement reports must be completed by a licensed agency in the state in which you reside.

Payments for CAS fees and International expenses are to be made payable to CAS via cash, check, or credit card. Payments made via credit card are subject to a 2% processing fee.

Many families will qualify for the adoption tax credit of approximately \$13,170 per child as created by the Hope for Children Act.



Please contact CAS at cas@christianadopt.org
 or at 704.847.0038 for more
 information on our Liberia program.