



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 \$1,000
CAS Admittance Fee (due upon approval of home study)	1,500	per additional child
CAS Acceptance Fee (due upon acceptance of referral))	<u>1,900</u>	
Total	\$3,600	

International Fees

ACFI Program Fee* (due upon submission of dossier)	\$2,000	
Ministry of Health Fee* (due upon submission of dossier)	450	
Orphanage Support\Child Care** (due upon acceptance of referral)	3,000	
Child's U.S. Visa* (due upon acceptance of referral)	420	
Escort Fee (if applicable, due upon acceptance of referral)	<u>1,000</u>	
(* per child) (** \$2,000 for 2 nd child, \$1,000 for 3 rd child and each child thereafter)		
Total	\$5,870 – \$6,870	

Travel

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

Additional Expenses

USCIS 1-600A Fee	\$750	
Fingerprints (second parent)	80	
Liberian Visa*	150	Total Estimated Fees and Expenses
Transportation (ACFI)**	50	\$14,470-\$19,080¹
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>	
(* per adult) (** per day)	Total \$750-\$2,810	

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 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 \$12,150 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.

