

## Case Study 1

### Elderly Woman Abandoned at the Atlanta Airport

An 81 - year - old Chinese woman lived in an American airport for three days. November 6th, 2016, the 81-year-old Chinese woman at the Atlanta airport boarded a flight to Beijing, China. Before that, the elderly woman was alone in the airport for three days. The reporters from Chinese media in the United States found out that the 81-year-old Chinese woman, Ms. Wang, was a retired teacher whose husband had long passed away. She herself brought up her only daughter in China and supported her until the daughter graduated from one of the top universities in Beijing. Ms. Wang's daughter then married and had a daughter. Ms. Wang helped take care of her granddaughter from the time that she was one year old. A few years ago, the young couple moved to the U. S. to study and work. When the granddaughter was 12 years old, Ms. Wang sold her house in Beijing, moved to the U.S. and lived with her daughter's family. Ms. Wang gave all her savings to her daughter with the hope that her daughter would take care of her for the rest of her life, which is very common in Chinese families whether in China or in the U.S. Not long after her arrival in the US, her daughter got a divorce and then remarried an American man. The new son-in-law was very unfriendly to his mother-in-law, and even called her "Old Dinosaur". The new family, including the granddaughter, did not welcome Ms. Wang. The airport staff told the reporters that the elderly woman held a return ticket, which the woman's granddaughter bought online using her (Ms. Wang's) own money. The original departure date was on November 13. However, as Ms. Wang told the reporters, in the days prior to the date, she found her daughter's house almost emptied, and even the puppy she liked was not at home anymore. She then called her granddaughter and said that she no longer wanted to stay here (in the U.S.) and wanted to move back to China. She also instructed her granddaughter to change the

departure date of her flight to November 6. The granddaughter did that, but she also called a taxi on November 3 and dropped her grandmother off at the airport. Ms. Wang told reporters that her daughter and son-in-law both have good jobs with decent pay, and she had her own pension in China. When the reporters offered to call her daughter, Ms. Wang declined, saying that she did not want her daughter's life affected by what happened. Though having received a Green Card for six years, Ms. Wang said that the card did not mean anything to her because she did not want to die in the U.S. Not able to speak English and also suffering from diabetes, the elderly woman stayed at the airport for three days. Without sleep for two nights, she was weak and her eyes were red and swollen. She was first found by a Chinese man on November 5th, who was seeing his friends off at the airport. With the help of this gentleman, other volunteers and the airport staff, Ms. Wang spent that night at the airport hotel waiting for her flight on November 6th.