

Vermont Communication Support Project

Explanation of Need for Communication Support Services

The Vermont Communication Support Project (VCSP) has Communication Support Specialists available to assist people with disabilities with their communication and comprehension of judicial and administrative proceedings. Communication Support Specialists have training and experience in communicating with persons with cognitive disabilities, learning disabilities, developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, autism spectrum disorders, and some mental illnesses.

The Communication Support Specialist works with the client and their treatment professionals to determine any accommodations and assistance needed in order for the person to understand and communicate meaningfully in the proceeding. The Communication Support Specialist will create a plan to provide the accommodations and then support the individual in requesting the necessary accommodations from the court or the administrative agency. The Communication Support Specialist provides the identified accommodations in the administrative or judicial proceeding. Examples of accommodations are: requesting that questions and terminology be simplified, checking in with the person with the disability repeatedly about their level of understanding, obtaining breaks when necessary, and using alternative means of communication such as charts, diagrams, and colored calendars, when necessary, to allow the individual to understand and communicate.

In order for a person requesting the services of a Communication Support Specialist through the VCSP to receive them, the person must demonstrate that: a) they are a person with a disability; b) they need accommodations to effectively communicate and understand the proceedings; and c) the VCSP services are able to provide accommodations to assist the person in overcoming the communication barriers resulting from their disability.

To assist the person requesting the Project's services, please answer the following questions:

Client's Name: _____

Person Submitting Form: _____

Your Profession or Relevant Employment:

How you know the client:

Please describe the person's communication-related disability and explain how the client's communication-related disability will affect their ability to communicate and understand court or administrative proceedings:

Please describe the types of accommodations that would assist the person in overcoming their disability-related communication and understanding barriers:

Is there any other information that you would like to provide that is pertinent and related to this request for a Communication Support Specialist?

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Provider Contact Information:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Other:

Please e-mail this form to: csp@disabilityrightsvt.org

OR

Fax to: 802-229-1359 Attn: VCSP Director