

COMMUNICATION SPECIALISTS WHAT CAN THEY DO?

- Assess the communication strengths and challenges of the person with a disability
- Assist in developing a plan for accommodations that will support participants with communication and comprehension at hearings or meetings
- Assist in requesting necessary accommodations
- Model effective communication techniques, as well as strategies and tools for all individuals involved in administrative or judicial proceedings

“Vermont is a national leader with regard to this work. There are many disabilities that can affect a person’s ability to communicate effectively during judicial or administrative processes. Communication Specialists are trained to provide support and necessary accommodations to ensure that people are being offered an equal and fair opportunity to participate. This respects the civil rights of people with disabilities and increases efficiency for all.”

*~ Lynne C. Cardozo
VCSP Director, CSS*



CONTACT VCSP VERMONT COMMUNICATION SUPPORT PROJECT

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Clients say: “This is a very respectful service that is important.” – “I have a hard time understanding and they really help me understand.” – “I think this is a great service, especially for people like me who need it.”

*VCSP is a project of Disability Rights Vermont. For more information:
www.disabilityrightsvt.org*

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1-888-686-VCSP

VERMONT COMMUNICATION SUPPORT PROJECT

VCSP

**PROVIDING SPECIALIZED
COMMUNICATION
ACCOMMODATIONS FOR
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
TO ASSURE EQUAL ACCESS
TO OUR SYSTEM OF JUSTICE
AND STATE SERVICES**

WHAT WE DO

The Vermont Communication Support Project assists individuals with disabilities that impact their ability to communicate.

The VCSP assigns Communication Specialists to provide support in court, administrative proceedings and/or meetings that may include attorneys, state personnel or providers.

WHAT IS A COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST?

A Communication Specialist is an individual specifically trained to understand the communication needs of people with disabilities such as learning disabilities, developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, mental health disorders, psychiatric disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, aphasia and others, including stroke and disease related disabilities.

They understand the challenges and barriers to effective communication and can help to overcome those barriers with effective accommodations.

Communication Specialists can assist individuals in their efforts to effectively participate in court, administrative proceedings, and meetings.

WHO DOES THE VERMONT COMMUNICATION SUPPORT PROJECT SERVE?

The Project serves individuals with disability-related communication barriers that prevent them from fully participating in civil, family, probate and small claims courts, as well as administrative proceedings and meetings.

EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- Divorce
- Parental Rights and Responsibilities
- Child Support
- Relief from Abuse and Stalking
- CHINS (children in need of care/supervision)
- Termination of Parental Rights
- Eviction
- Small Claims
- Probate / Guardianship
- Meetings (DCF, Attorneys, etc.)
- State Administrative Proceedings

- VCSP SERVICES ARE CONFIDENTIAL
- VCSP SERVICES ARE FREE FOR LITIGANTS

“The VCSP’s services have been outstanding in quality and a great boon to the clients themselves, as well as to the fair administration of the legal system in their cases. With skill and understanding, the VCSP communication specialists help clients better understand the situations before them, which greatly support their navigation and communication with elements of the social and judicial systems.”

~ Jonathan Heppell, Esq.

The VCSP makes available and supports a trained cadre of Communication Support Specialists qualified and accepted by Vermont’s judiciary and administrative agencies.

“There are many disabilities that can affect a person’s ability to communicate. Navigating the judicial system or state meetings, whether the disability is visible or not, can present significant challenges that affect comprehension or the opportunity to fully participate. The work and expertise of a certified Communication Specialist ensures that people are being offered an equal opportunity.

*~ Havah Walther,
VCSP Communication Specialist*

IF YOU THINK YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW MAY NEED VCSP SERVICES CALL (888) 686-8277