**Overview Act 264**

* **1985:** National Institute of Mental Health’s Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP) funded Vermont to begin developing strong **interagency partnerships** among mental health, child welfare, and public education providers. The five-year CASSP effort involved an extensive planning process that included service providers, parents, and advocates. They developed the first **System of Care Plan** consisting of an extensive list of community-based services that need to be provided in a coordinated manner.
* **1988:** Act 264 passed requiring human services and public education **work together, involve parents, and coordinate services** for better outcomes for children and families. Initially, Act 264 was enacted on behalf of children and adolescents experiencing a **severe emotional disturbance** and their families. Definition of severe emotional disturbance:
	+ - Exhibits a **behavioral, emotional, or social impairment** that **disrupts his or her academic or developmental progress** or **family interpersonal relationships**.
		- Has impaired functioning that has continued for **at least one year** or has an impairment of **short duration and high severity** under 18 years of age or is **under 22 years of age and eligible for special education** under state or federal law.
* **2005:** Interagency Agreement between the Vermont Department of Education (DOE) and the Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS) **expanded the target population** beyond those eligible under Act 264 to also include **children and adolescents with disabilities** who are eligible for both special education and disability-related services, including service coordination, provided by AHS.

Act 264 and the 2005 Interagency Agreement:

* Creates a **Coordinated Services Plan (CSP)**, available to children and families to create **unified service provision through collaboration of multiple agencies**
* Creates one **Local Interagency Team (LIT)** in each of the State's 12 Agency of Human Services' districts
* Creates a **State Interagency Team (SIT)**
* Maximizes **parent involvement**
* Creates a governor-appointed **advisory board**
* Parent/guardian MUST give written **permission** for meeting to take place
* Parents are **entitled** to a CSP
* Required to complete a CSP prior to beginning **residential placement** process
* Access to LIT and SIT

**Helpful Websites:**

Act 264 Document on the IFS Website at – <http://ifs.vermont.gov/>

Vermont Federation of Families for Children Mental Health – <http://www.vffcmh.org/>

Vermont Family Network <http://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/>

Coordinated Service Plan Forms:

**[Coordinated Service Plan (CSP) - complete document in Word](http://ifs.vermont.gov/sites/ifs/files/documents/CSP-Section123_4-9-09.doc)**