

My name is Billy Burleigh and I used to be transgender.

As a child I had the reoccurring thought that, “God made a mistake, I’m a girl.” I prayed before going to bed and, every time I prayed, I asked, “God, please make me a girl before I wake up.” If I could have, I would have quickly chosen any path that would have transformed me into a girl.

When I was in my early 20s, I sought help for the disconnect between my mind telling me I was a woman, and my body telling me I was a man. In seeking help and doing my own medical research, the message I received was that I had to change my body to match my mind. After seeking any other path forward, I decided to take the therapists’ encouragement and medical researchers’ advice, i.e. the journal articles and the information in books, to change my body.

I started on a testosterone blocker and estrogen. My emotions were up and down, and my body was changing, but I was supposedly on this new road to happiness and that made me happy.

In my first surgery I had a penile inversion, an Adam’s apple shave, and a brow shave. After the surgery, the doctor and nurses had difficulty stopping the bleeding from my new “vagina.” My artificial vagina was packed with gauze and a sandbag was placed on my lower abdomen, but the bleeding did not stop. Later, my mom told me that going into my hospital room was awful. The pungent odor in the room was that of stale blood, my blood. I received a blood transfusion and plasma and, eventually, the bleeding stopped. My two weeks stay in the hospital turned into three weeks stay. But changing my penis to an artificial vagina required two surgeries, so about four months later I was back for part two. My money was low at that point, so I did not have any family or friends accompany me – I went through this second surgery on my own. I was desperate for the happiness I believed was ensured me.

After this, I had additional feminization surgeries, but no matter how many I had, every time I looked in the mirror, I saw a man staring back at me. I tried hard to resolve the conflict between my mind and my body, but after seven years of trying, I had more problems at that point than I had when I started on the road of transition.

The bottom line is that the therapists and medical researchers were wrong – changing my body did not resolve my internal conflict and it did not make me happy, but what it did do was drain my financial resources and left a scarred body.

I have fully transitioned back to male, I am happily married, I have two beautiful stepdaughters, and I have peace of mind and body.

Lastly, I was past the age of responsibility when I made a horrible mistake. In hindsight, I am male, and I was born into the right body. The therapists and medical researchers failed to help with my underlying mental problems. They identified me as transgender, and they were wrong. How often are they wrong?

## How did the therapists and medical researchers fail me? What were my underlying mental health problems?

Later in life, after detransitioning, I heard it said that everyone has a need to be acceptance, secure, and significant. Though I hadn't heard this before, I agreed with this statement, and I started thinking about how I had tried to satisfy these needs in my younger years. I had some problems as a child – I was very skinny, had a speech impediment, had learning difficulties, was not athletic, and I didn't seem to fit in with the other boys. I did, however, seem to fit in well with the girls and I enjoyed playing with them more than I enjoyed playing with the boys. As a boy, I didn't feel accepted or secure, and I most certainly didn't feel significant. But if I were a girl, I believe I would have felt accepted and would have felt more secure. And, with my childhood thinking, I may have been more significant to my dad. In hindsight I see that I had several underlying problems that reinforced the false thought that I was a girl, including being sexually abused in the sixth grade. The therapists never did uncover, never did delve into these underlying issues, and my research on transgenderism failed to turn up anything on these needs for acceptance, security, and significance. The therapists and researchers, with respect to me, got it wrong.

Addendum: When I was transitioning from identifying and presenting as a female back to male, male being my birth gender, I needed a means to change all my documentation from Female back to Male. Having a Phalloplasty would provide the needed document. Long story short – I asked the doctor many times if I was a good candidate for this surgery, my body-fat was very low, and he assured me that I was. He said that I would be very happy with the outcome. I trusted him. He's a doctor, he's a surgeon, and he has my best interest in mind - or so I thought. Below are two pictures; the first is of my abdomen prior to the surgery and the second is my abdomen about a year after the surgery. Needless to say, I Was Not happy with the results. I was Horrified with the results, and I had post-op complications that I had to seek medical help with. Here again, the gender-transition medical-provider Failed me!

The therapists and medical professionals say trust us, we care for you and we know how to help you. If they really cared for me, they would have helped me uncover and work-through my childhood issues, my mental health issues. Instead, I was encouraged and set me on a road to great financial expenditures and bodily harm. To watch a 17 minute video of my story, go to Family Watch International, Videos, Transgender Issues, { <https://familywatch.org/transgenderissues/> } Video Library, Victims, and watch **“Transgender Victim: Billy's Story”**.

Before Phalloplasty



After Phalloplasty

