

## TRANSCRIPT

**FRONTLINE: Growing Up Trans****Middle School Can be Scary**

**ALEX SINGH, Age 13:** For me, the age that everything started to happen was around 5th grade. I started really going through puberty. That was— that is horrible. I hate it. I mean, for any transgender, male or female, it's probably the worst time in their life because they're actually becoming what they don't want to become.

I was wearing three sports bras. I was very self-conscious of my chest because guys obviously do not have a chest. They are flat, completely. And so before that, I was able to pass. I was able to kind of be a guy. But then once that started happening, I was, like, "Oh, that is not going to help my appearance much. Yikes!"

In my mind, I saw this really strong, flat-chested guy that had an Adam's apple and a beard. When I looked in the mirror, I saw this small girl who was not supposed to look like that. I felt like I just needed to look the way I looked in my head, to be who I was and feel comfortable with who I am.

**NARRATOR:** This year, at the age of 13, Alex began to transition and formally changed his name in school, where everyone had known him as Karen.

**ALEX:** Middle school can be kind of a scary time for lots of people. Even after I started really transitioning, I would— I would want to stay home because I know that everyone there knew me as a real girl.

I can feel them kind of, like, wondering why I couldn't just be a tomboy, why I couldn't just dress like a guy and I didn't have to become a guy. So instead of calling me, like "he's," and by the male pronouns, they'll call me "it" because I'm kind of in the middle. I mean, I can deal with that. I don't really like it, but I have a minimum amount of friends. I want to keep the friends that I have, so I kind of just let it go.