

## 11412 - Ruling on a smoker leading prayers

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### the question

Is  
it permissible for a person who is a smoker to lead people in prayer?

### Detailed answer

People  
should not pray behind a smoker if a better person can be found to lead  
the prayers. If no one better can be found, or you come and pray behind  
him and he is still a smoker, the prayer is still valid, in sha Allaah.  
The majority of scholars stated that prayer behind a faasiq (rebellious  
evildoer) is still valid, and if a person prays behind him he should not  
be told to repeat the prayer, because of the general meaning of the  
hadeeth: "Pray behind the one who says Laa  
ilaaha ill-Allaah." (Narrated by Abu Na'eem, 1/320;  
al-Daaraqutni, 2/56).

And  
Allaah knows best.