

Making the Rows when there are Men and Women

Q: Salaah-370: There is sometimes only one follower and sometimes an immature boy or a female. At times, the followers are a mixture of immature boys and women. How will the rows be formed in these situations? Please provide a detailed reply.

Answer: When there is only one follower, he would stand alongside the Imaam (slightly behind) on the right of the Imaam. It will be Makrooh Tanzeehi for him to stand on the left of the Imaam. It will also be Makrooh Tanzeehi for one follower to stand directly behind the Imaam because this conflicts with the Sunnah. As for the single follower who is not yet of age, he should stand alongside the Imaam (slightly behind).

A single female follower will stand immediately behind the Imaam. If the followers are a single male and a single female, the male will stand alongside the Imaam (slightly behind) while the female will stand immediately behind the Imaam. If the followers are two (or more) males and a single female, the males will stand immediately behind the Imaam and the woman behind them.

If there are two followers, it would be Makrooh Tanzeehi for them to stand on his right and left. However, if there are more than two followers, it would be Makrooh Tahreemi for them to stand alongside him.⁶ It will be Makrooh Tahreemi according to consensus if there is one follower beside the Imaam and other followers behind them.

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