



**How do I get copies of old tax returns?**

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Access to financial records is always challenging in matrimonial actions. So what is the best way to obtain copies of prior year tax returns?

First, if the tax return was prepared by a paid preparer, ask them for a copy. By law, paid preparers are required to retain copies of tax returns and all supporting records for 3 years after the due date of the return, or 3 years after the return was presented for signature. Some firms may have internal policies to retain tax returns for a longer period than required by law, perhaps as long as 7 or 10 years. So, try there first, it will probably be faster and cheaper.

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