

How to Host an eSuite Room

The controls only a host has: changing roles and permissions during a proceeding, running the recording, and managing who is in the room.

This guide covers what a host can do from inside a room, as distinct from setting the room up beforehand. Most of it exists for one reason: a proceeding rarely starts with everyone correctly labelled, and a host needs to fix that without stopping the deposition.

For scheduling a room, building the attendee list, and choosing features and recording layouts before the event, see [How to Create an eSuite Room](#).

1. Who Counts as a Host

Two kinds of people hold host controls:

- **An account host** - someone signed in to your eSuite account who opened the room. The room menu shows **Room: 1234567 (Host)** for them.
- **A co-host** - an attendee a host promoted, either on the attendee list before the event or from inside the room. They get the same in-room controls for this session.

The difference matters in exactly one place: only an account host can take the host role back off a co-host. That is deliberate, so a co-host cannot remove the person who promoted them.

2. Open an Attendee's Card

Almost every control over a person lives in one place. Open the attendee list and click the person's row. Their card opens over the list, with a **Back** arrow and the attendee count at the top.

On the row itself, each person shows a role chip. When someone has no role yet, which is exactly what a guest who just joined looks like, the row shows **+ Role** instead. That is the affordance to look for when a witness arrives as a guest.

Marisol Delgado



Mute



Camera off

Role

Deposing Counsel



Team

Plaintiff

Co-host



Permissions

Transcript



Transcript save



Exhibit access



Message

+ Breakout



Remove

3. Change Someone's Role During the Proceeding

On the card, the **Role** dropdown sets what part this person plays: Witness, Videographer, Deposing Counsel, Opposing Counsel, Court Reporter, or no role at all. Choosing one opens a confirmation that spells out what the change actually does before you commit to it.

Designating a **Witness**, for example, states plainly:

- Their camera becomes the recorded witness feed
- Screen sharing is disabled for them
- Private chat with deposing counsel is blocked
- Their team tag is cleared

The change takes effect immediately. The person is told what happened in their own terms, so a witness whose screen share button just disappeared knows why.

GOOD TO KNOW: Designating a witness clears the previous one

A room can only have one witness, because the recording picks the witness feed by that designation. If someone else already holds it, the confirmation names them and tells you they will be cleared. It does not block you, since blocking mid-proceeding would be worse, but it does mean the witness-focused recording follows whoever was designated last.

BEST PRACTICE: Designate the witness before you start recording

The witness camera is chosen by this designation, so a recording started before anyone is designated has no witness feed to follow. If a witness joins as a guest, promote them first, then start the recording.

Designate Priya Raghunathan as Witness ✕

Their camera becomes the recorded witness feed

Screen sharing is disabled for them

Private chat with deposing counsel is blocked

Their team tag is cleared

⚠ Dana Reyes is the witness in this session and will be cleared. Only one witness can be set, because the recording picks the witness feed by that designation.

✓ Also clear their realtime, transcript and exhibit permissions

i Applies to this session. The room's invite list is unchanged.

Cancel

Designate Witness

4. Set or Change a Team

The **Team** field on the card tags someone to a side, such as Defense or Plaintiff. Same-team attendees get a private team chat and can share exhibits with just their team. Your account's saved team names appear as suggestions, and you can type a new one for an unusual party structure.

For a witness the field is replaced by a line reading **Witnesses are never on a team**. That is what preserves the separation between counsel and the witness: a witness on the Defense team would receive the Defense team chat.

5. Grant and Remove Permissions

Under **Permissions**, three switches control what an attendee can reach:

- **Transcript** - see the live realtime transcript.
- **Transcript save** - save their own copy of it.
- **Exhibit access** - upload and download exhibits.

These take effect immediately and are the usual reason to open someone's card. A guest who joins unlisted arrives with none of them, so granting transcript access is often the first thing a host does for arriving counsel.

Only the permissions the room actually has appear. A room with no transcript source does not show the transcript switches.

6. Make Someone a Co-Host

The **Co-host** switch on the card hands over the host controls. The confirmation is explicit about what that means:

- They can start and stop the recording
- They can admit, remove and reassign other attendees
- Their role in the proceeding does not change, and neither does anyone else's access

Co-host is separate from the proceeding role, so deposing counsel acting as host is perfectly ordinary and their role survives the promotion.

BEST PRACTICE: Promote a second host before you need one

Everything in this guide stops being available the moment the only host drops off the call. Promoting a co-host early, usually the court reporter or the videographer, means a dropped connection does not leave the room with nobody who can change a role or stop the recording.

Make Priya Raghunathan a co-host



They can start and stop the recording

They can admit, remove and reassign other attendees

Their role in the proceeding does not change, and neither does anyone else's access

Applies to this session. The room's invite list is unchanged.

Cancel

Make co-host

7. Mute, Camera, and Removing Someone

At the top of the card, **Mute** and **Camera off** act on that person straight away, and flip to **Unmute** and **Camera on** once applied. They are placed first because they are the most-used controls in a live room.

Remove disconnects the person from the session. They are told a host removed them. Removal ends their current connection; it does not edit the room's attendee list, so a verified attendee can verify and rejoin.

GOOD TO KNOW: Removing is not the same as revoking access

If someone must not be able to come back, remove them and then lock the room, or edit the room's attendee list. On its own, Remove only ends the connection they currently have.

8. Start and Stop the Recording

Open the room menu and choose **Manage Recording**. While something is running the entry reads **Manage Recording (live)** and is marked in red.

Before starting, the modal lets you confirm what this particular recording will capture: **Composite Layouts** or **Individual Streams**, which layouts to record, and whether to **Burn in timestamp**. These are the room's settings, and changing them here applies to the recording you are about to start. Then press **Start Recording**.

While a recording is running the modal shows which layouts are capturing, and notes that layouts are locked until it stops. Press **Stop Recording** to finalize the file and begin post-production.

BEST PRACTICE: Start and stop with the record

Starting when you go on the record and stopping when you go off it keeps breaks and off-record discussion out of the file entirely. Each on-record stretch produces its own recording, and afterwards you can select the parts in **Recordings** and choose **Combine** to join them into one file.

GOOD TO KNOW: Layouts cannot be changed mid-recording

Once a recording is running the layout selection is locked. If you started on the wrong layout, stop, change it, and start again. The two parts can be combined afterwards, so this costs you a seam rather than the recording.

Manage Recording



What to record

☒ **Composite Layouts**

Up to 4 layouts, each producing its own file.

☐ **Individual Streams**

Each participant's audio/video recorded separately, up to 15 at once.

Recording Layouts

Select up to 4 layouts to record simultaneously. Each produces its own file.

☒ **Grid**

Equal-size tiles showing all participants

☐ **Speaker**

Active speaker prominent, others in sidebar

☐ **Single Speaker**

Only the active speaker, no thumbnails

☐ **Speaker + Exhibits**

The active speaker alongside any exhibit or screen share, plus all audio

☐ **Witness + Exhibits**

The witness alongside any exhibit or screen share, plus all audio

☒ **Witness Only**

Just the witness, plus all audio

☒ **Burn in timestamp**

Show a running MM:DD:YY HH:MM:SS clock in the corner of the recording. Not visible in the room.

Cancel

 **Start Recording**

Manage Recording



Recording in progress

Layouts are locked while a recording is running. Stopping finalizes the current file and begins post-production.

Recording layouts

GRID

WITNESS ONLY

A timestamp is being burned into the composite recording.

Close

☐ Stop Recording

9. Join a Second Device as Videographer

If you are hosting and also running the video, you do not need a second invitation under a second email address. Open the room link on another device and enter your code as usual. Because you hold host access, the **VERIFIED!** screen stops there and offers two buttons instead of carrying you into the room:

- **Continue as Host** - joins the room normally, with every control in this guide.
- **Join as Videographer** - opens the clean recording feed on that device instead.

The videographer view is an edge-to-edge shot of the witness with no room interface over it, which is what your own screen-recording software should point at. It asks you to choose **Witness Only** or **Witness + Exhibits** first, and offers a **Burn in timestamp** option.

The two connections are independent. Choosing the videographer feed on the second device does nothing to your host session on the first, which keeps every control described here.

GOOD TO KNOW: The videographer seat holds no host controls

It publishes no camera or microphone and carries no host powers by design, so it cannot change a role, grant a permission, or start and stop the recording. Keep your host session open on the other device, because the videographer device cannot do any of it. Both connections appear on the attendee list under your name, one of them tagged Videographer.

Attendee Verification

VERIFIED!

You have host access to Delgado v. Thompson - Deposition. Join as a videographer instead to get the recording view on this device.

Continue as Host

Join as Videographer

The videographer view is a clean feed for screen recording. It has no host controls, so keep your host session open on your other device.

10. Approve Screen Share Requests

When someone who cannot share on their own asks to, a prompt appears for the host reading “[Name] would like to share their screen” with **Approve** and **Deny**. It stays on screen for thirty seconds.

Verified attendees generally share without asking. The witness and the videographer cannot share at all, by design, and will not produce a request.

11. Lock the Room

From the room menu, **Lock Room** stops anyone else from joining. The same entry reads **Unlock Room** once locked. Locking does not remove anyone already present.

BEST PRACTICE: Lock once everyone is in and on the record

It is the simplest way to guarantee nobody wanders in mid-testimony, and it is one click to undo when someone needs to rejoin after a dropped connection.

12. Breakout Rooms

From an attendee’s card, **Breakout** starts a private side room with that person, and if breakouts already exist the card offers **Add to [name]** for each one. Counsel use these for a private word with their client without leaving the proceeding.

Deposing Counsel cannot take the witness into a breakout. That restriction is the point of the role and applies to hosts as well.

13. End the Session

Leaving offers two different things. **Leave** disconnects you and leaves the room running for everyone else. Below it, a host also sees **End Meeting for All**, which disconnects every participant and ends the session.

GOOD TO KNOW: Stop the recording before you end the meeting

Ending the meeting for everyone is the last thing to do, not the first. Stop the recording yourself so you know the file was finalized cleanly, then end the session.

What a Host Cannot Do

Several things are refused on purpose. Knowing them saves you hunting for a control that does not exist.

- **Make the witness a host.** They would hold host powers over their own testimony. Clear their role first if that is genuinely what you want.
- **Give an observer a role or the host controls.** Observers watch the stream and are not connected to the meeting. Changing that requires them to rejoin.
- **Remove the host role as a co-host.** Only an account host can, and never from another account host.
- **Leave the room with no host.** The last remaining host cannot be demoted.
- **Change an attendee's email address.** The address is their identity, confirmed by a code sent to it. A host typing one in would assert an identity rather than verify it, so it is corrected on the room's attendee list instead.
- **Re-role someone signed in on your account.** Account logins are not re-labelled from inside a room.

GOOD TO KNOW: In-room changes never edit the room itself

Everything here applies to the session in progress and to the record of it. None of it rewrites the room's saved attendee list. For a multi-day matter, make the same corrections on the room afterwards, or day two starts exactly as day one did.